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THE
First and second part
of the History of the famous *Euordanus* Prince of Denmark.

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With the strange Aduentures of Iago Prince of Saxonie: And of both theyr seuerall fortunes in Loue.

AT LONDON,
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The first part of the History of the famous *Euordanus*, Prince of Denmarke; with his aduentures, and fortune in Loue.

CHAP. I.

How King *Frederick* and his Queene walking to take the ayre, were assaulted by a company of Out-lawes, & how the Queene was deliuered of a child in the Forrest.

YOV may read in the Chronicles of Denmarke, of the great loue betweene King Frederick, & the famous Allisonne, Countesse of Flaunders. And how that after a long contention, betweene the said Frederick, and Griffory Duke of Holland, the King married her in the great Cittie of Gaunt, to the extreame griefe of the said Griffory, who thereupon gaue ouer all martiall exercises for a season, vntill such time as hee was reuenged, as you may more at large read of in the said Chronicle, written by one Cleonido a Dane.

Not long after the said marriage, the King hauing setled the estate of that Earledome, returned into Denmarke with his beautifull Queene; where at the arriuall, they were receiued with great honour and triumph by his subiects, who loued him as intirely, as it was possible for any subiects to loue their Prince, as appeared by their solemne processions, ringing of bells, stately pagants, and other gallant shewes, which were presented vnto him in euery Towne hee passed through. But comming into Maiance, which then was the chiefe Cittie of the kingdome,

hée was presented with such varietie of pleasing shewes, that it passeth my capacitie to describe them, likewise there were many excellent and learned Orations, pronounced by the chiefe schollers of the Vniuersity of Maiance, setting forth the great loue of the people toward their Prince, and the ioy conceaued of his marriage with so excellent a Lady as was his Queene. On the otherside, the King to gratifie his subiects louing mindes, shewed himselfe bountifull and liberall vnto all, to some by gifts, to others by promises and fayre words, and to all by pleasing iestures, so that one might rightly say, there was in him the liuely portrature of a most graue and prudent Prince, and in them the true shew of faithfull and louing subiects.

But as it alwaies hapneth, when men think themselues in greatest felicitie, then whether it be by the instabilitie of Fortune, or else that the Fates and destinies haue so appointed it, they are oftentimes suddenly tumbled downe, into griefe and miserie. Euen so it hapned with the King and Quéne, who liuing a while in this content, were suddenly driuen into great cares and perplexitie. Wherby we may perceiue, the diuine power of God to be such, that hée can pull downe Princes from their thrones, and restore them againe at his pleasure, as sometimes he did by Nabucadnezar and others, to the setting forth of his glorie and power.

Now was it hard about the Month of May, when as the fields and woods were decked with Floras brode, and on each spray sate lonely birds, resounding heauenly harmonie. The prettie Nitingail, setting her speckled breast against a brier, regarded not fond Terius foule desire, but chaunted forth her pleasant ditties. When as the King and Quéne, accompanied with a small traine of Lordes and Ladies whom they loued, one morning early staie forth of the Court secretly, to disport themselues in the forrest, which was hard adioyning vnto the Citty walls, where they had not long remained, beholding the broad-shaded Okes, and stately loftie Pines, before that a company of Out-lawes,

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who were baniſhed the Kingdome of Fraunce, had eſpyed them, and ſéeing they were no better prouided, ſet on them. Where one might haue beheld the Quéene and her Ladies ſo affrighted with this ſudden accident, fling vp & downe, ſome hiding themſelues in one bush, ſome in another. Others againe béeing more timerous, ſuncks downe where they ſtoode, not béeing able to flie away. But all was one, flie or tarry, for béeing purſued, they were all taken, and brought backe, ſauing onely the Quéene, who béeing carried forwards with the wings of feare, made ſuch haſt that ſhée eſcaped them all, béeing ſo appointed by the prouidence of God.

The King likewiſe & Noblemen béeing amazed at this vnlooked for euent, knew not well ſuddenly what to determine, but in the end, ſéeing no other remedy, reſolued to defend themſelues as well as they might. The King being at that time one of the moſt accompliſhed Knights in all Europe, layd on ſuch blowes amongſt them, that hee made an euident ſhew that hee was determined to ſell his life at an extreame déere rate. But beeing vnarmed, and hauing no other weapon but his ſword, and all his company béeing ſlaine out-right ſauing two, who were likewiſe grieuouſly wounded, was forſt perforce to yéelde to their pittileſſe mercy: who hauing obtaind victory, ſtript them all, as well Lords as Ladies of their coyne, and abilliments which were ought worth. And binding thoſe whom they thought might any waies worke them diſpleaſure, as by rayſing power to purſue them, or vnbinding their fellows, they determined ſpédily to depart towards the Sea coaſt, where ſome of their company remained, with two ſmall Barks, wherewith they croſt the ſeas. But as they were ready to depart, it came into one of their mindes, that ſome of them whom they had robbed, might peraduenture be ſuch perſons, for whoſe raunſome, they might get more coyne then all their booty was worth: whereforе demaunding of one of the Ladies whō they had bound, what they were, was giuen to vnderſtand, that hee who made the

greatest resistance was the King, the other two which were liuing, both noble men of his Court. Then calling to his mind, the great hate betweene the said King, and Griffory Duke of Holland, determined if he could, to cary him with him, and to present him to the Duke, of whom he hoped to receiue some great reward. Wherefore intreating his fellowes, who knew not whō they had robbed, to grant him so much fauour, as to permit him to haue that Knight for his prisoner, in regard as knowing him heeretofore in Fraunce, fayning that there he had done great despight to a friend of his, in reuenge whereof hee would deliuer him into his hands, whom he knew would keepe him in eternal prison for his former offence. Nowe if they would be contented to grant this vnto him, hee would seeke for no other part of their bootie.

They all beeing more greedy of pray then of prisoners, who they thought might rather be a charge, then profit vnto them, were content to graunt vnto his request. Who presently went and vnbound the King, and so led him directly towards they^r shipping. And hauing winde at will, presently wayed Ancor, and set into the Sea, where wee will leaue them for awhile, and returne to the Queene, who by her swift flight, misst the hands of the thieues, but fell into as great or greater ill. For whilst the King and the other Lords held the thieues somewhat short, by defending themselues, as is before declared, the fearefull Queene flying into the wood for safety, strayed two and fro shee wist not whether. At length, beeing wearied with running, and fainting still with feare, shee sate her downe vnder a Juniper bush, to refresh her selfe, where after shee had awhile rested her selfe, shee began to call to mind, and consider in what great danger shee had left her Lord & husband, then reprouing herselfe, for that she had not rather made choyce to haue stayed and ended her dayes with him, then thus to haue roued she wist not whether. Then rising vp, shee determined to haue returned to the same place where she left them fighting, but strayed further, so that tracing and trauersing

uerſing vp and downe the wood, ſhee ſpent the whole day to her no ſmall griefe. And now darke night hauing ſpred her ſable mantle ouer the face of the earth, the ſorrowfull Quéene, not knowing what to doe, or whether to goe, determined to take vp her lodging for ỹ night, vnder a broade branched Oake, faſt by a fountaines ſide, wheras the wild beaſts of the Forreſt did commonly reſort to drinke, where good Lady ſhée was forced to content herſelfe with a hungry pittance, teares béeing her daintieſt diſh, whereon ſhée fedde, ſometimes exclayming on cruell fortune, whom ſhée accuſed to haue brought her into theſe miſeries: then preſently her huſbands portrature ſéemed to appeare vnto her minde, whom ſhe thought to be murdred by thoſe robbers, which was ſuch a griefe vnto her, that many times ſhe was minded to haue ſlaine her ſelfe had not God mightily preſerued her to a further ſetting forth of his glory.

Thus paſt ſhée away moſt part of the night with weeping and lamentations, vntill ſuch time that Somnus with his leaden wings ſeaſed her eye-lids, and cauſed her for a while to ſlumber. In which ſléepe, ſhee thought an Angell ſent from God, being clothed all in white rayment, appeared vnto her, ſaying, Bee of good hart and feare not, for theſe croſſes which now are come vpon thée, the Lord hath ſent to proue thée with all, and therefore it behoueth thée to beare it patiently, vntill ſuch time as the Lord ſhall eaſe thée of them. As for the King thy huſband he liueth, but yet in bands, and ſhall doe ſtill, vntill ſuch time as the childe that now is in thy wombe, ſhall be his deliuerer, whom thou at his birth ſhalt name Euordanus, this nowe am I ſent to tell thee, becauſe thou ſhouldeſt not diſpayre.

The Quéene héereat awaked out of her ſlumber, and loking about if ſhe might ſée any body, but could not, then perceiuing it to be a dreame, or viſion, meruailed what it might ſignifie, & was greatly troubled with deuiſing thereof: ſo that all the night after ſhee could take no reſt, ſometimes thinking of her huſband, and ſometimes what the childes deliuerance might meane, at length determined to

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referre all to the mercifull prouidence of God. Thus sits thée poore sorrowfull Lady, till such time as by the singing of the chéerefull Larke, & by the roaring of the wild beasts, thée was preparing to forsake Dame Thetis lodging, and that nights sable mantle was changed into a hoary gray. When loe, as was their wont, the sauage beasts came vnto the well to drink, there did shee with feare beholde the statelie Unicorne, with the cruell Tiger, & roaring Beare, and gaudy Panther, the bellowing Bull, & foming Boare, the rauening Wolfe, and craftie Fore, with diuers more, which put her in such feare, that she had thought presently to haue bæn deuoured, when falling on her knæs, and holding vp her hands, she said these or such like words.

O most mercifull Lord God, I doe here acknowledge before thy diuine maiestie, my manifolde and innumerable sins committed against thy diuine maiesty both in thought, word, and dæd, O Lord I am not worthy so much as once to loke vp to heauen, much lesse to receiue any thing at thy hands O Lord. Yet mercifull Father, trusting in the merits of thy dearely beloued sonne, our Lord and Sauiour Christ Jesus, I come vnto thée in his name, craning forgiuenesse of all my sinnes and iniquities. And further, O Lord God, I humbly beséech thée to saue and deliuer mée, from this present danger, and perrill of my wretched life, O Lord bow downe thy heauenly eye, and behold mee thy wofull handmaide, and likewise this poore infant that is within my wombe, defend it, O Lord, and grant that according vnto the vision which thou by thy holy Angell hast shewed mee, it may liue to set foorth thy glory and power, and in the end, when it shall be thy blessed will, to call vs out of this wretched vale of wickednes, thou wilt receiue and place vs in thy Celestiall kingdome, whether O Lord for thy sonnes sake bring vs I beséech thée.

These, or such like were the words, which the distressed Lady then vttered: when behold a mightie furious Lyon came rushing out of the wood towards her, bringing in his mouth a cake of Bread, which he most gently layd downe

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at her féete, fawning vpon her, as if of long time he had bin acquainted with her, and would not depart from her. At length, somewhat to recomfort herselfe, then smoothing his rough bristles with her tender hand, she made much of him laying his head on her lap, wherat he séemed to take great content. Then taking vp the cake of bread which hee had brought her, and giuing thanks vnto God, imagining as sometimes in the wildernes hee had sent Rauens to feede the Prophet Elias, so likewise had hee now sent the Lion to comfort and bring her foode, she refreshed therwith her hungry stomacke: After which repast, the Lyon very softly paced towards the wood againe, euer casting backe his head, as if he looked whether ẏ Lady followed him or not, which shée at length perceiuing, determined to follow him, hoping thereby either to get out of the wood, or else to finde some better place of safety. Thus went they together, till at last he brought her vnto a Caue vnderneath the ground, with a very narrow entrance in, but béeing entred, shée found it a reasonable large roome. Thus determining for a while to remaine there, till such time as God should send her better fortune, passing away the time some whiles with walking about the woods néere the Caue, otherwhiles with playing with the Lyon, who euery day brought her in meate, such as he got abrode in the Forrest, which she sometimes scorched and dryed in the sunne, otherwhiles was forced to eate it raw, vntill such time as by hap one day walking abroad, she found a flint stone, with which afterwards shee vsed to strike fire, and therewith would broyle her meate. Thus continued she, vntill such time, that according to the naturall course of women, her time of childe-birth was come. When as good Lady, féeling the paines thereof, to her most strange and extreame, not hauing any to comfort and help her, she fell againe into her wonted passion of dolour, complaining of her cruell fortune, which had depriued her of all helpe and comfort, & had brought her into this extreame sorrow & paines. But euen then, in the midst of her complaints, God pittying her griefe, sent her safe deliuerance

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of a most goodly and beautiful boy, which when she beheld, according to the saying of the Scripture, she forgate all her former sorrow, reioycing that a man child was borne into the world: and giuing thanks vnto God, she tooke the child vp in her armes, and beholding it, she imagined that in him she saw the liuely figure of the King her husband. And making such shift as shee could to wrap him vp in clothes, shee beheld on his right shoulder a well proportioned crosse, which séemed farre redder then the rest of his body, wherat shée greatly meruailed: then calling to minde her vision, she hoped that in time he should prooue a famous man, and a scourge vnto the enemies of the Christian faith, as shee thought the signe of the Crosse did already foreshew, then likewise remembring the name which the Angell had tolde her in her vision, as soone as she had recouered strength to goe, went with her sonne to the fountaine, where shee baptized him, naming him as she was willed, Euordanus, then returned she againe to the Caue, where wee will leaue her for a while with her young Infant, and returne to speake of the King her husband.

CHAP. II.

How King *Fredericke* being carried away by the Out-lawes, after a great storme at sea arriued in Holland, whereas he was sold to his mortall enemie, the Duke *Griffory*.

AFter the Out-lawes had brought theyr bootie and good King aboord, and had set sayle, minding to haue gone for some place of Fraunce, where they might haue secretlie stolne ashore, to learne some newes of theyr owne affayres, and hauing the wind large, determined to haue landed in a small cricke not farre from Rotchell, because most of them were héeretofore inhabitants of that Towne, but euen as they were come within the sight of Land, on a sudden the Skyes began to ouercast, the sunne was clowded, and the face of heauen was so darkned, that

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one could not diſcerne at that preſent time, beeing about noone dayes from the darkeſt midnight: the winds began to blow on all ſides, as if that Eolus had vnſtopped all his ayrie Caue, and had determined with one aſſault to haue ſubdued Neptunes Regiments. Or as when the angry Goddeſſe Iuno greeuing at the quiet paſſage of the poore vanquiſht Troians, deſired Eolus to ſinke them in the ſea: ſo fared it with them, by reaſon that the ſeas on all ſides beeing ſo aſſaulted of the windes, did ſo cruelly rage and ſtorme, that ſometimes their ſmall Barks did ſeeme to touch the very clowdes, and preſently againe were throwne downe vnto the ſands, euery man imagining that to be the laſt houre of their liues. Some, as is commonlie the cuſtome of ſuch people beeing in extremity, fel to prayer, otherſome to curſing and ſwearing: the Maiſter cries in with the ſayles, others cry downe with the Maſt, ſome againe, to lighten their Barke of her burthen, the more parly to riſe with the Seas, beginne to throw ouer board all whatſoeuer comes to hand, hoping thereby, as with a pleaſing ſacrifice, to appeaſe the angry Seas.

But euen as they were thus buſied, ſome on one thing, others on another thing, a mighty guſt in manner of a Whirlewind, comming out of the South weſt, beares both maſts and ſayles by the burden. The Barke wherein the King was, hauing ſpent both their fore and maine Maſt, were forced to put to hull, yeelding themſelues to the pittileſſe mercy of the wind and ſeas, which euery minute was ready to haue deuoured & ſwaliowed them vp. Thus continued the ſtorme by the ſpace of three dayes, the wind ſometimes in their forſhyp, then in their poupe, nowe in the quarter, and preſently againe in their bowe, continuing with ſuch force, that the beſt man aboord was ſcarcely able to ſtand on the hatches. But at length, as euery ſtorme hath an end, ſo now Neptune rouſing himſelfe out of his fayre Queene Amphitries boſome, and beholding the poore diſtreſſed Marriners, toke pitty on their miſeries, and liſting his hoary head aboue the waters, aſſwaged them, and

with his three-forked Mace rebuked the Windes, threatning to punish their arrogant presumption, if he hereafter hapned to find them with the like offence.

The storme being thus broken vp, and the Sunne beginning againe to lighten the earth with his splendant beames, the weather-beathen Marriners loking abroade for their comfort, espied the Land, which after they had a while with ioy beheld, they made to be the Land of Holland. Who then so glad as Martinus, for so was hee called which had the King to his prisoner, for whom he hoped ere long to receiue such a summe of money, as for euer should make him rich: the King on the other side was in as great perplexity, knowing that they were arriued on the coast of his greatest enemy, yet comforting himselfe somewhat with the hope of not beeing knowne, as also of not knowing Martinus meaning, he shewed himselfe the more chearefull. Thus betweene hope and feare, they altogether passed away the time, in merry discourses of their former danger, till such time as they were come on land, at a Port called Alentmaer, where Martinus fayning himselfe to be verie ill at ease, by reason of the late storme, craued leaue of the rest of his company, to goe with his prisoner vnto the Citty of Hanstance, which was not passing three leagues of, now called Ansterdam: where hee determined to rest himselfe, vntill such time as hee found himselfe throughly amended, which they soone graunted him, not knowing his intent, and beeing also willing to be ridde of his company, because of his double charge.

So departed Martinus with his prisoner, whom he swore to continue true vnto him: as fearing his escape, being to trauell but they two together, but the King being in his enemies country, durst not make himselfe knowne, which he must needes, if he had made any resistance. Thus trauelling on together towards Hanstance, they arriued there at such time, as the blushing sunne plucking in his smiling beames, making his steedes to mende their wonted place, and plunging downe into the Ocean streames, there in

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the frothy waues did hide his face, leauing the earth couered with nights darkſome ſhade: wherefore that night they tooke vp their lodging, Martinus learning of his hoſt, how Duke Griffory hauing euer ſince the marriage of the King of Denmarke, and the faire Lady Alliſon of Flaunders, giuen ouer all pleaſure, was withdrawne from his Court into the Country, ſome eight miles diſtance from the Cittie: where hauing built a lodge in a marueilous ſolitarie place, hee paſſed the time in melancholly humors, ſomewhiles playing on the Lute ſome mournefull ditties, otherwhiles, ingrauing in the trees on the ground Verſes and Sonnets, feeding his humors with ſuch vaine toies, to the great griefe of all his ſubiects: and how in all that time he neuer had ſufferd any one to come into his preſence, or to ſpeake with him, ſauing a ſmale company of his attendants, which remained there with him. When Martinus had heard all this, he determined ỹ next day to goe thether, and to make knowne vnto him thoſe things, which ſhould ſoone put him out of his melancholy dumpes. The nert morning very early he was riſſen vp, and comming to the King, told him how that hee had ſome occaſion of buſines in the Country, which would cauſe him to be away a day or two, wherefore hee was determined in the meane time, leauing him behind him, to cauſe him once more to ſweare vnto him, to remaine vntill his returne, which if hee refuſed, that then he would commit him vnto ſome priſon within the Cittie, whereas hee ſhould bee alwaies forth comming at his pleaſure. The King liſtning attentiuely vnto his ſpeech, was driuen into a thouſand imaginations, not knowing what was beſt for him to doe, at length conſidering his former oath, which rather then he would violate, he would chuſe to indure any death whatſoeuer, ſo much did he eſteeme of his Kingly oath: hee anſwered him thus. I knowe not what your meaning may bee, in this ſort to doubt my former promiſe, and to goe about by a new oath to aſſure your ſelfe of me: if to ſet me to ranſome, I heere freely proffer my ſelfe to goe a long with you into any place,

out of this accursed region, and there to remaine, vntill such time that the same bee payed vnto you, although it should amounte vnto an hundred thousand pounds, rather then that you should deliuer me, into the hands of the Gouernor of this accursed Country, who is my mortall enemie.

Nay, nay, replied Martinus, being blinded with couetousnes, and hoping for a greater summe of monie: there is no such matter ment, but I haue not farre off a friend, whose councell I minde to followe heerein: in the meane time chuse whether you will remaine in prison, or vppon your oath. The King séeing no remedie, sware vnto him againe to continue his true prisoner, although it cost him his life.

Then departed Martinus, towards the Dukes lodge, where béeing arriued, and desiring conference with his grace, touching such matters as nérely concerned him, he was at length brought into a garden, in forme much like vnto an endlesse labyrinth, so many were the diuers and sundry walkes and allies, couered with many kinds of trees, which yeilded such a close shadow, that the Sunne with his splendant beames could scarse shinne through: and passing thus from one walke into another, he came at length where the Duke sate in an Arbor of Baies, beeing clothed all in blacke, signifying his great sorrowe which he sustained, and hauing a Lute in his hand, was playing a mornefull dittie, which he euen then had framed, to which Martinus and his guide a while listned, vnséene by reason of the thicknes of the Arbor.

At length comming nérer, and with reuerence saluting his excellencie, Martinus spake as followeth.

Most mightie and puissant Prince, I cannot but wonder that you who heeretofore, were wont to spend your time in most honorable exercises, as Tilt and Turnie, and following hautie déedes of Chiualrie, should so giue your selfe ouer vnto this solitarie kind of life, neither regarding your owne estate, nor the estate of your louing subiects and Country: which would spend their very liues to worke

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your content. But if I bee not deceaued, this ſtrange humor wherewith you are poſſeſt, proceedeth from contrarie occaſions, the one is the extreame hate you beare vnto the King of Denmarke, the other ouer much loue towards the beautifull Quéene his wife, not knowing with your ſelfe what way to be reuenged of him, nor how to regaine her loue. But ſuppoſe moſt mighty Prince, I ſhould worke the meanes of your reuenge, by deliuering him into your hands, would not it content you? yea would you not more reioyce thereof, then to haue gained the greateſt Cittie in Chriſtendome, and likewiſe reward him, that ſhould effect the ſame to his content: ſpeake O worthy Duke, were not theſe the occaſions of thy griefe, and would not this likewiſe be the chiefeſt medicine to eaſe thy ſorrowe.

Scarce were theſe laſt words vttered, when the Duke ſtarting vp, and ſtaring him in the face, as one wakned out of ſound ſléepe, thus replied. Friend, whatſoeuer thou art that ſéekeſt by a fayned and filed tale, to driue me out of my ſad paſſions; knowe that to ieſt with Princes is not tollerable: But if thou canſt performe, that whereof thou haſt made ſhowe of, I will not be ſlacke in rewarding thée for thy paines, though thou ſhouldeſt demaunde halfe my Dukedome. Therefore tell me by what meanes this may be accompliſhed: then effect and bring it to paſſe, and I will reward thée to thy owne content. Worthy Duke replied Martinus, if I performe it not, then let my head bee ſtriken from my ſhoulders, conditionally that if I doe deliuer into thy hands, that vnhappie King, I may haue for my reward the Citty of Hanſtance during my life, with the profits thereof: and this confirme vnto mee before your Nobilitie, and then I will deliuer him into your hands, within this eight daies next comming.

The Duke being filled with ioy, with this his ſo comfortable newes, conſented vnto whatſoeuer he demanded, and calling for a Knight which was néereſt vnto him, willed him to ſommon his Counſell the nert day, to bee attendant to heare a matter of importance, which he would ſhow

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vnto them: which was foorthwith accomplished, euery one the nert day at their houre appointed, beeing ready in the Counsell chamber, to heare what should be their Princes will: euery one greatly meruailing what soden motion, was entred in his head, considering that by the space of a yeere before, he had neuer conferred with them of any matter, no nor once suffered them to come into his presence. They being as I haue sayd gathered together in the Counsell chamber, the Duke leading Martinus by the hand, came vnto them, where he declared his intent, with the promise of Martinus: all which was consented vnto by them, hoping thereby to haue their Prince in his former estate of content: Assuring vnto Martinus vnder their hands and seales, that whatsoeuer the Duke had made promise of, they would see it performed, so sone as hee should deliuer the King of Denmarke into their hands. Heere will I leaue them to tell of the great griefe, made through all Denmarke, for the losse of their King and Quéene.

CHAP. III.

How the King and Queene beeing found missing, were sought for, and how the Lords and Ladies that were with them were found.

THe same morning that the King and Quéene went to recreate themselues in the forrest, as is before declared, they were not found missing, till such time as ỳ tables being spred for diner, and many Lords and Ladies, Knights, Squiers, and Gentlemen, being assembled together to giue their attendance on his Maiestie, marualed that hee was so long, before he came downe into the great Hall, contrarie to his vse, which was alwaies wont to be by tenne of the clocke, where he remained vntill dinner time, passing away the time with mirth and pleasant disports. At length hauing expected his comming vntill twelue of the clocke,

and

and ſæing that he came not, the Lord Treaſure, whoſe name was Sir Henaule, muſing what the cauſe might be, and doubting that all was not well, in regard hee neither came himſelfe, neither any of the Squiers, which were attending nærest vnto him were ſæne to come downe, to declare the cauſe, at length went vp vnto the Kings bedchamber, where hee found the Chamberlin with diuers other Gentlemen, which alwaies attended on the Kings owne perſon. And demaunding of them where his Maieſtie was, that he came not downe in the Hall as he was accuſtomed, they all gaue him anſwere, that the King and Quæne, accompanied with the Lord Gwaltero his Cofin, the Lord Bewdall, and the Lord of Menew, with ſome Ladies and attendants, in the morning very early went forth at the Poſterne, towards the Forreſt to take the freſh aire, and that ſince that time they were not returned, neither did they know farther what was become of them, but doubted leaſt that they had ſtrayed ſo farre within the wood, that they had loſt their way forth. When Sir Henault had hard this, he was much amaſed, & greatly troubled in mind, fearing leaſt there had bæne ſome treaſon wrought againſt his Maieſtie: wherefore cauſing the reporters of theſe newes, to be in ſure kæping, he went downe, and declared the ſame to the reſt of the nobillity, and taking counſell together, they determined forthwith to make a general ſearch, as well for the King and Quæne, and nobles found wanting, as alſo for all ſuſpected perſons, which might bæ thought any waies guilty towards their abſence: likewiſe they determined, to make a generall ſearch throughout all the Forreſt, leaſt peraduenture, they were hapned to goe aſtray, and could not find the ready way backe againe, or if that they were any way diſtreſſed, either by thæues or wild beaſts, that then they might reſcue them, or find what was become of them.

Thus hauing determined, they armed themſelues, to the number of thræ thouſand, Knights and Gentlemen, and being mounted on their horſes, they tooke the way di-

rectly towards the Forrest, where beeing arriued they seperated themselues into diuers companies, seeking vp and downe, and looking almost in euery bush, but could not find them whom they sought for, at length Sir Henault with his companie happning to passe that way, wherein the morning the fight had beene, chaunced first to finde some of the dead bodies, and looking farther, sawe whereas the Lords and Ladies lay bound, being almost dead with the paine and griefe which they sustained, ỹ Lords by reason of their wounds, and Ladies by the feare wherein they were put: then comming more neere vnto them, they found the Lord Gwaltero, and the Lord of Menew grieuously wounded, the Lord Bewdall with some foure or fiue other Gentlemen slaine out right, which sight strake such a griefe and sorrow into the harts of all the beholders, especially of Sir Henault, that he had much to doe to sit on his horse, yet at length recouering his sences, and causing them to be vnbound, he demaunded what was become of the King and Quéene, and by what misfortune they were brought into this pittifull case.

The Lord Gwaltero hauing his wounds bound vp, and being somewhat refreshed and reuiued with such restoratiues, as some of the companie had brought with them, answered, how that walking to take the aire, and to view those pleasant shades, they were sodenly and vnawares set on by forty theeues or Outlawes, whom by their apparrell and speech, they iudged to be frenchmen, where defending themselues as well as they might, were in the end thus ouercome and wounded: and as for the King, after they had bound vs and were departing away, hauing before stripped vs of the wealth we had about vs, they returned and toke him with them, towards the sea-side. But of the Quéene, we knowe no certainty, for whilst we were fighting she fled into the wood, with the rest of the Ladies, who were all brought back againe saue the Quéene only, by some of the Outlawes who persued them: more I knowe not, but feare least they likewise happned on her, and haue

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carried her with them: wherefore he thought it fit that purſute might be made after them to the ſeawards, where if they were not already gone, it might ſo fortune as they might recouer the King and Quéene againe, otherwiſe there would be no hope left for ſéeing them in haſt.

When Sir Henault had heard this diſcourſe made by the Lord Gwaltero, he was ſo grieued inwardly, that with extreame ſorrowe he fell from his horſe in a trance, and being brought againe to himſelfe, ſéeing all things were to be followed according to the occaſion and time, firſt he commaunded, ſome part of his companie to conuaie the Lords and Ladies to the Court, whereas they that were wounded might find helpe for to cure the ſame: and they likewiſe that were ſlaine, might euery one haue buriall according to their eſtates: himſelfe in the meane ſpace being accompanied with a hundred Knights, would followe after the théeues, hoping that if they were not put to ſea before their comming, not only to reſcue the King, but alſo to giue them ſuch a reward as for euer ſhould bee an example, to thoſe who ſhould goe about to attempt the like. With this determination they rode on towards the ſea ſide, whereas they arriued, about the time, when Veſperus, in the weſt had ſet the cunning watch, and ſilent night richly attended by his twinckling traine, ſent ſléepe and ſlumber to poſſeſſe the world, and fantazie for to hazan idle heads, whereas they found their labor fruitleſſe, by reaſon that they were departed long before: and ſéeing the night beginne to wax darke, they all together determined on the plaine, hard by the ſea ſide for that night to reſt themſelues, making fiers and great lights to cauſe the reſt of their companies to come vnto them, who likewiſe had made a long and bootleſſe ſearch in the wood, and at length being almoſt all come together, where Sir Henault remained, they determined the next day to make preperation to follow them by ſea, whom they could not recouer on ſhore.

CHAP. IIII.

Of the generall lamentation that was made throughout all the Kingdome, and how that after a councell held for the gouerning thereof, the Knights and noble men tooke on them the search of the King.

THe next day, no sooner had darke night taken his leaue, and that the day began to appeare in the East, but Sir Henault with the rest of his company, were mounted on horsback, taking their way towards the sorrowfull Cittie of Maiance, where beeing arriued, they found the Citty all full of heauines, by reason of the late newes, which at their comming was so much the more augmented, being returned without any certaine knowledge what was become of the King and Queene. There might you haue seene the true discription of sorrow, not in one onelie creature, but in generall through the whole Cittie: some fell to shutting vp their doores and windowes, as minding for very griefe to inclose themselues prisoners in their own houses, shunning the day light, which had giuen light to those Robbers, who had dispoyled them of their ioy and comfort. Others againe clad in blacke mournfull attire, with their cheeks be spred with teares, which like streames trickled downe from the fountaines of their eyes, went vp and downe lamenting and bewailing the losse of their so louing and gracious Prince. The late costly shewes, and stately Pagants, were turned into sadde obiects: yea, no noyse was heard through the whole Cittie, but weeping and lamentation, so that the sorrow sustained by the Troians, for the losse of their chiefe Champion Hector, when by the Greeks, at the commaundement of cruell Achilles, he was three times dragd about their Cittie walls, beeing before hand cowardly slaine with his accursed Speare, was not to bee compared with this of Maiance. The graue and modest Matrons, were seene with their gar-

garments rent, and their haire diſperſed about their ſhoulders, in moſt dolefull manner to repayre to the Temples, where before the moſt Higheſt, they poured foorth theyr prayers for their Soueraigne, bathing themſelues with the teares which fell from their eyes. The young damſels pleaſant ſongs, which with clære and chærfull breſts they were wont to record, were now turned into ſad & mournfull ditties, bewailing the loſſe of their Countries protector. Yea, ſo generall was the græfe vnto all manner of eſtates, that for the ſpace of fortie dayes together, there was neither ſhops opened, nor any wares or merchandiſe ſolde in their markets. So that the towne, which was wont to be ſo filled with all ſorts of people, now ſæmed in a manner to be voyde & deſolate, none, or very few ſæne at any time to walke in the ſtræts. Neither was the griefe in the country any leſſe, yea throughout the whole kingdome: ſo generally was he beloued of all his ſubiects, ỳ hee was counted not onely a iuſt Prince, but alſo a louing Father to his Country, alwaies defending the poore from the oppreſſion of the rich, and the deſolate widdowes and Orphans, from the violence of thoſe, who by any meanes ſought to wrong them.

Sir Henault, as we haue before ſaid, bæing returned to Maiance, cauſed forthwith ſome ſmall Barkes to be well manned and ſent forth after the Pyrats, with commaund not onely to ſcours their owne Coaſt, but alſo to purſue thẽ vnto the borders of Fraunce: where they toke many, but could not mæt with any of thẽ which they ſought for. Then calling a generall Counſell of all the Nobility and Pæres of the Land, where after a long & learned Oration by him pronounced, deſcribing vnto them, the fickle and dangerous eſtate wherein their Country now ſtoode, by reaſon of this ſudden and vnlooked for alteration of crooked Fortune, with the mutabilitie of the minds of the common people, whoſe natures are alwaies to liſten after nouelties. Which things being conſidered, it could not chuſe but to appeare impoſſible, to kæpe the Common-wealth in ſafetie:

without some certaine forme of gouernment to be establi-shed. Desiring all of them to bend and ioyne their willing minds together, to deuise some course or meanes for the same, vntill the King might againe be heard of and reco-uered. Which hee thought could by no meanes better be effected, then by a generall search made by a chosen num-ber of Knights, who should trauell through all the Domi-nions and kingdoms of Christendome, and else where, as by them it should be thought fit and conuenient: of which number, he himselfe God willing intended to be one, who would either finde him out, or end his dayes in the search.

This his speech was listned vnto of all, but especiallie applauded and commended by the Lord Gwaltero, and the Lord Menew, who as then were indifferently recouered of their wounds, which they receiued at the losse of their King: and beeing both young and valerous, especiallie Gwaltero, who was then the absolute best Knight in all the kingdome of Denmarke, hoped by this meanes not onely to find out their King, if so be he liued, but also to winne to themselues eternall renowne, by their haughtie deedes of Chiualrie, which they hoped to obtaine in strange Coun-tries, where their fortunes should conduct them. But as for the gouernment of the Common wealth, in their con-ceits, they thought none more fit then Sir Henault him-selfe, who beeing both sage and discreete, and also beeing as we haue said before, Lorde Treasurer, & alwaies in great fauour with their late King, had in a maner the whole ma-naging of the affaires of the Kingdome in his owne hands, by which meanes, as they supposed, he knew how, better then any other, to continue the same in the former estate, which would be farre better then to alter the same, by any other order of gouernment.

This their opinion was held for currant of many, and consented vnto by most of those that were present, who de-sired no alteration, but thought their former maner of rule to be best, and without fault.

But as there is no man so vertuous, but shall haue some

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that will enuy at his goodnes, eſpecially great and mighty men, who no ſooner grow into the good liking and fauour of the people, be it by neuer ſo iuſt or well deſerued occaſion, (yea though by him onely the Common-wealth hath bẽn in a manner preſerued and defended from the inuaſiue power of their enemies, (yet ſhall you haue ſome, like dogges in a manger, that will neither doo good themſelues, nor willingly heare of others well doings,) beeing prickt forwards with enuy, will not ſtick to turne any his good deſeruings into euill, and all their counſels, be they neuer ſo profitable to the Common-wealth, they will goe about to perſwade, that it is rather to benefit & rayſe themſelues, then to doe good to their Countries: yea further, let them accompliſh any notable peece of ſeruice for their country, they will not be afraide to whiſper into mens eares, that it was donẽ but for vaine glory.) Euen ſuch there were in this Counſell, who not onely for enuie, diſliked the choyſe which the Lord Gualtero and the reſt had made, but alſo diſliked of the ſearch which Sir Henault had motioned for the ſeeking of the King, alleaging that by making ſuch a queſt, they ſhould not onely diſpoyle themſelues of theyr chiefe Captaines and leaders, but alſo leaue theyr Country naked, and ready for euery inuaſion of the enemy, when it would be too late to call home thoſe for theyr defence whom they ſhould not know where to find. Some againe thought it better to ſend forth Embaſſadors into diuers Nations, thereby hoping to gaine knowledge, what was become of him: thinking that if the Out-lawes had kept him aliue, that then they had ſold him to ſome Prince, who would be content to put him to raunſome. Others held, that to ſend forth ſpyes, which by diligent inquirie might heare of him, would be the beſt courſe. Thus diuers men were of diuers minds, ſitting a long while in counſell to no end, neither determining any order for the gouernment of the Common-wealth, nor meanes to find out their King and Queene. But at length, by the meanes of the Archbiſhop of *Maiance*, who deſired change and alteration,

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they grew to determine of their gouernment, which should be in this manner following.

First, they should chuse of the most sufficientst of the Nobilitie, and Laitie of the Realme, the number of fiue-score, out of which number by lot they should chuse tenne, and of the Clergie thirtie, out of which nũber likewise they should chuse two by lot, so that of the Nobility there should be alwaies tenne, and of the Clergie two, which twelue so elected, should haue the gouernment of the whole kingdom for a yeere, and at the yeeres end, to giue vp an account vnto the other fiue-score and eighteene, of the imployment of the treasure belonging to the Crowne: and then other twelue to be chosen in the same manner, for the nert yere. And this order and manner of gouernment to be kept inuiolate, vntill such time as they should heare some certaine newes, either of the Kings death, or returne. To this they all consented, setting thereto their hands & seales, presently making choyse of those whose happe should be first to gouerne this their new deuised state. The Lots beeing cast, the first twelue to whom the gouernment lighted, was of the Clergie, the Archbishop of Maiance, and the Bishop of Odelstoe: and of the Nobilitie, the Duke of Louenborge, the Duke of Newmisler, ỳ Lord Harding, the Count Hermes, the Countie of Mildorpe, the County of Opencade, the Lord of Londen, the Lord Itzenho, the Lorde of Newstat, and the Lord of Rensborge. These twelue, according to former agreement, toke on them the gouernment of the kingdome, first setting all things in quiet within the kingdome, and making diuers lawes and statutes for the preseruation thereof. And then made preparation for the defending of the same, if so be ỳ any neighbor Prince should now in the alteration of their gouernment, make any war or inuasion vppon them, thereby not to be taken vnprouided. They therefore fortified diuers Castles, and strong Holds vppon the borders of the Kingdome, repairing those that were weake, and erecting new where they thought any neede to be, placing garrisons in them all, for ỳ defence

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thereof. Likewiſe they toke order, for the defence and ſure kéeping of the Country of Flaunders in their ſubiection, fearing leaſt vppon the report of the loſſe of the King and Quéene, there might be ſome alteration mooued, either by ſome neighbour Potentats, or the inhabitants themſelues; who at that time were giuen altogether, to deſire change and alteration.

Now amongſt all theſe diſcourſes wee muſt not forget the Lord Gwaltero, the Lord Menew, and Sir Henault, whoſe heroicke mindes not being able to bee contained within the confines of Denmarke, miſſing their onely comfort and ſolace, their noble Prince, whoſe preſence was more déere to them, then any thing in the world beſides: prouided according to their former determinations, to trauell in his queſt throughout the whole world, but that they would either find him out, or heare ſome certaine newes of him, which being made knowne, to diuers other Lords and Knights, there were to the number of a hundred, all of the minde, bent either to find him out, or neuer to returne. Thus euery one in the beſt manner they could, made preperation for their iourney, fitting themſelues both with armor, and ſtore of money for their néedefull expences in their trauell. And being all in a readines to depart, they deuided themſelues, ſome into one Country, and ſome into another, appointing where many times to méete, being in ſtrange Countries, where wee will leaue them, to declare what befell to the King and Martinus, being in his enemies Country, as is before mentioned.

CHAP. V.

How King *Fredericke*, was deliuered by *Martinus*, into the the hands of *Griffory*, by whom hee was imprisoned, and how *Martinus* by the Duke was afterward put to death.

YOu haue heard before, how *Martinus* had agréed with Griffory of Holland, for the deliuery of the good King Fredericke, in recompence whereof, he should haue for tearme of his life, the Cittie of Hanstance, withall the customes and profits thereof.

The next day after this conclusion, the Duke going along with him to Hanstance, where being ariued, was by *Martinus* brought into the Burgesses house, where he left the King, who according to his oath he found there still remaining, little fearing that which suddenly hapned vnto him, for *Martinus* comming vnto him, and taking him by the hand, as if hee would haue conferred with him about his raunsome, brought him at length into a chamber, whereas he had left the Duke, accompanied with some few of his nobillitie, vnto whom *Martinus* spake as followeth.

Most high and mighty Prince, according vnto my faithfull promise made vnto your excellencie, I héere before these your nobillity, deliuer vp into your hands, this vnfortunate and vnhappie King of Denmarke, of whom you may now at any time, be fully and sufficiently reuenged, of any former wrong by him committed against you, or of any displeasure, which worthily you haue conceaued against him, and likewise so clip his wings, for euer héereafter being able, to doe you the least offence whatsoeuer.

When the Duke had heard him speake this his pleasing, and to him most delightfull speech, scarce suffring him to make his conclusion, hauing also in the meane time throughly viewed the King, whom by diuers signes he verily knew to be the same, he could scarce content himselfe, but

but would immediatly haue slaine him with his owne hands, so deadly was the hate he bare him, and such the inciuilitie of his churlish and reuengfull nature: yet being stopped by some of his nobilitie from killing him, hee fell out into these or such like rayling speeches. O thou most accursed and vild caitife, whom were it not (that I meane to put thée to more extreame paine & torments,) I would with these my hands, rent that detestable body of thine to peeces, and with my téeth teare and gnaw the flesh from thy bones, so endlesse is my malice against thée, and so many thy wrongs and villanies committed, which causeth me to muse and inuent, what or how many kind of torments, I might inflict vpon thée. But would to God that disloyall strumpet, that infernall Quéene, the causer of all my miseries, yea she whose bewitching beauty, thou so much and with such a grædinesse hast desired, yea and by thy coniurations, and other thy detestable and execrable meanes, thou hast hetherunto to thy content inioyed: O that she were héere present, to behold and take part of those continuall paines and torments, the which not only for the hate I beare thée, but also to bee reuenged on her, for her most odious, whorish, and execrable dissimulation towards me, I meane to inflict vppon thy wretched carkas.

The good King being no longer able to forbeare, these inhumane and opprobrious reuilings, proffred him by his currish and spightfull enemie, replied in this sort: Grisiory I cannot but muse, how God hauing indued thée, with reason and vnderstanding like vnto other men, that thou notwithstanding, shouldest abound in vicious, wicked, and detestable conditions aboue all other men, which canst not be content with the miserie, which thou sæst me brought into, being thy prisoner, and at thy disposition, to be either kept or ransomed, wrought by the most base & odious meanes that might be, yea after such a sort, that the veriest Infidell vnder the heauens, would not so much as once haue gone about or imagined, but also now (contrarie) to all humanitie, reuilest me with such opprobrious

ſpæches, whom hæretofore thou durſt not to looke me in the face for feare, and alſo reuile at her, whom neither thy ſelfe, nor no man liuing is able to touch with ỹ leaſt crime whatſoeuer, and that would I make good againſt thée, and three of the beſt of thy Knights with my body, were I at libertie, hauing horſe and armor. Tis true, tis true, replied the Duke, we knowe your valloz to be great, but we will ſœne abate that your hote courage, and place you where your Goddeſſe whom you ſo much eſtæme, ſhall neither haue power, nor meanes to helpe you.

Doe thy worſt replied the King, and ſith it is the will of God to inflict this puniſhment vpon me, I will indeuor my ſelfe with patience, to indure what torments ſoeuer ſhall happen, hoping in the world to come, to inioy therefore eternall bleſſednelle: but in ỹ meane time thinke not thou, but that thou maiſt fall in like miſhap, and that I haue yet remaining in the Kingdome of Denmarke ſuch Subiects, that when they ſhall knowe of this my ill fortune and thy crueltie, will not leaue bearing Armes, till ſuch time they ſhal haue layd waſt, this thy accurſed Country, not leauing thée any Towne, or Fort to hide thy ſelfe, from their reuengefull ſwords: wherefore aduiſe thee, and determine either to ſet me at libertie, or otherwiſe expect thoſe euils, which will ſurely fall on thy Country. If thou conſent to my inlargement, for my ranſome thou ſhalt receaue a whole million of gold, which ſhall bee payed thée foorthwith out of my treaſurie.

No, no, replied Griffory, thy gold is but droſſe, and cannot worke in me that content, which my hart ſhall inioy by thy impriſonment, neither doe I feare thy power which thou ſo much vaunteſt of, for thou ſhalt ſée, and that ſhortly, that I will not onely poſſeſſe my ſelfe of thy darlings County of Flaunders, but alſo by the ſtrength of this right arme, in deſpight of all thy power, Crowne my ſelfe King of the Kingdome of Danſke, whilſt thou in the meane time, ſhalt lie rotting thy bones in my priſon. Thẽ turning about to a Knight of his, named Sir Ragdand, hee willed

him

him to conuay the vnhappie King priſoner vnto his Caſtle of Coruew, and there to put him into the dungion of the ſayd Caſtle, and to alowe him euery day, for the continuance of his moſt wretched life, a quart of water, and a pound of bread, made of the courſeſt braune, thinking this, that continually pining away by reaſon of his courſe faire, would be a farre greater paine and torment vnto him, then any preſent death whatſoeuer. Likewiſe for the more ſure kæping of him, hee ordained a gard of fifty Knights, alwaies to bee within the Caſtle, who ſhould ſæ that no Knight ſhould enter therein. This Caſtle of Coruew, was of meruailous ſtrength, inuironed about with dæpe ditches, and mighty heigh walls, and had but only one way in, which was ouer a drawe bridge, the which was alwaies defended by ten of the ſayd fifty Knights, fiue at ỹ one end, and fiue at the other, this gard grew at length to a cuſtome, by reaſon of the hundred Knights of Denmarke, which went in ſearch of their King, and was deuiſed only to intrap and impriſon them, as you may reade towards the latter end of this booke. Hære now will we leaue the woful King incloſed in a miſerable priſon, bewailing his croſſe fortune, where hee paſſed away many a yeare, ỹ although his fare was as we haue ſayd before both courſe and ſhort, yet did God ſo bleſſe him, that he continued alwaies healthy and ſtronge of body, neuer grieued with any kind of ſickneſs, ſauing onely diſcontentedneſſe of minde, which with patience he much delayed, ỹ returne we to ſpeake of Martinus, (who had not long after the impriſonment of the King, quietly inioyed the cittie of Hanſtance, withall the profits thereof before granted him, to the extreame griefe of the chiefeſt of the Cittie, who diſdained much to bee in ſubiection to ſo baſe a perſon,) for the Duke, ſome eight daies after poſſeſſion deliuered, fell in conſideration with himſelfe, of the great benefit which hee had loſt, by giuing away the chiefe Citty in his Dukedome, deuiſed which way he might with his honor recouer the ſame againe: at length hauing reſolued with himſelfe, he brought it thus to

passe.

One day beeing with diuers of his Nobility, and Martinus beeing in company, the Duke fained himselfe to be very merry, and in his mirth, for his further content, desired Martinus to declare, how hee hapned to take Frederick prisoner. Martinus not distrusting any thing, began to make a large repetition, beginning with his former life in France, then the cause and manner of his banishment, and their ariuing in Denmarke, with their robbery and murder, committed in the Forrest of Maiance, with their cruell storme sustained at Sea, as is before declared, by which they were put on that Coast, and lastly, the proffer of a hundred thousand pound by the King, which hee refused, onely to pleasure the Duke. All which when Griffory had attentiuelie listned vnto, hee suddenly start vp from the place where hee sate, commaunding the standers by to lay hands on Martinus, saying that it was not lawfull to suffer such a one, who had so many waies deserued death, as by his owne confession did appeare, neither to liue, nor to be accepted into the societie of men: wherefore he willed thē forth-with to leade him to the place of execution. Which when Martinus perceiued, and saw that the Tyrant was fully minded to execute, whatsoeuer he had said, hee fell downe on his knees, desiring mercy, and offering for the safegard of his life, to redeliuer his right of the Citty of Hanstance. But hee who neuer was acquainted with mercy or compassion, doubting if he should pardon him his life, the whole world would condemne him of iniustice: and seeing he might as well by his death as his life inioy his will, aunswered, that by the Law hee had deserued to die, and hee beeing appointed by God, to be a minister of iustice, could do no lesse then cause the lawes to be executed: wherefore for an example to all others, who for the desire of this worldly gaine, are content to betray the innocent, hee was ledde to the market place, and had his head smitten of. Now will we returne to speak of the Queene and her young sonne, whom wee left in the Forrest, beeing accompanied with brute beasts.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Howe the Queene going into the Forreſt, loſt her young ſonne, for whom ſhee made great lamentation, and how he was found, and carried away by the Duke of Saxony.

YOu remember, how the Quéene and her little ſonne, béeing ſtill in the Caue, were nouriſhed by ſuch meate as the Lyon vſed to bring them: and many times for her recreation, would goe walke amongſt the trées nére adioyning to their Caue. Thus continued ſhée by the ſpace of one whole yére, neuer ſéeing other company then the wilde beaſts: although there were diuers ſearches made through the Forreſt, as well by the Knights that went in the queſt of her and the King, as alſo by others for diuers occaſions. It hapned one day that the Lion hauing brought in a young Kidde, which hée had taken, the Quéene went forth to breake ſome wood to roſt the ſame withall: and taking her young ſonne with her, who by this time was able a little to goe and craule, and ſetting him downe in the ſunne whilſt ſhe went vp and downe, to breake rotten bowes and ſticks for the vſe aforeſaid, thinking her childe would continue quiet enough, playing with ſuch toyes as ſhe had left him, went ſomewhat farre from the place. Hée in the meane time, either béeing wearie of his ſport, or diſliking the place where he was, or more likely by the ſpeciall will of God, who pittying his and others miſhaps, had otherwiſe determined of his bringing vp, cauſed him to goe from place to place: ſo that by the time his Mother had prouided her wood, and was come to the place ſhée left him in, he was gone aſtray cleane out of hearing. Which when ſhe beheld, and had awhile called and ſought after him, not knowing what was become of him, a thouſand imaginations came into her mind: ſometimes thinking ſome wilde beaſts had deuoured him, then imagining againe, that the Lyon ſéeing him in that place by himſelfe,

had

had carried him to the Caue, as oftentimes hee would be playing with him, and beare him from place to place: and beeing a little comforted with this hope, shee hasted her to the Caue, where likewise shee was deceiued of her hope, which put her into such griefe, that not beeing able to containe herselfe on her feete, shee fell into a traunce. Where wee will leaue her awhile, and declare what became of the child. You shall vnderstand, that the very same day, Mauris Duke of Saxony passing ỹ Seas from England towards his owne Country, was driuen by force of weather vppon this Coast, where beeing safely arriued, with a few shyps of his Nauie, the rest beeing disperst with the stormе, and beeing weary of the Sea, determined with some twentie or thirtie Knights, and Gentlemen in his companie, to take some recreation and pastime in the Forrest, which was hard adioyning vnto ỹ sea-side where his ships then rode, as is declared in the first chapter of this Booke. So taking their horses and Armour, for feare of any danger which might happen, they altogether set foorth into the Forrest, whereas they had not long rode, before such time as a meruailous great Stagge appeared vnto them, which when Duke Mauris beheld, with his Launce in his hand, hee set spurres to his horse, willing the rest of his company to follow him, hoping by the swiftnes of his horse to haue slaine the Stagge: which hee pursued so farre, that at length hee had lost the sight of all his company, and was entred so far in the Forrest, that hee knew not well which way to returne againe, so thicke were the trees and bushes, and so many the small trodden paths which ledde two and two, made by the wilde beasts.

Thus roming to and fro, fearing to lose himselfe, and hoping to finde his companie, at length hee passed by the place, where as the young child had gotten himselfe by his crauling, whilst his Mother was gathering sticks (euen about the time that the good Lady was returned to the Caue to seeke for him) which when Duke Mauris beheld, hee alighted downe from his horse, and seeing it to be so fayre

and

and no bodie nere it, hee muſed from whence it ſhould come, or by what meanes it might be brought into a place, ſo deſert and voyd of humane companie: then taking the childe vp in his armes, and earneſtly beholding it, hee thought that it did very much reſemble his young ſonne Iago, who was then about the age of 18 or 20 monthes old, wherefore after hee had a while called to ſee, whether any body would come to ſeeke for the child, and ſawe that none came, he mounted againe on horſe backe, taking the childe with him, determining to haue him nouriſhed & brought vp with his ſonne, becauſe they did ſo much reſemble and were ſo neere of age, imagining that it might bee ſome Gentlemans, or Nobles mans childe, that by ſome great miſfortune was brought into this extremitie, thus ſometimes muſing of one matter, and ſo of another, he rod onwards he knew not well whether, but by chance he hapned on a ſmall beaten way, which brought him out of the Forreſt, almoſt at the ſame place where he entred, where hee found all his companie in a great feare, and doubt what was become of him, minding to haue returned againe into the Forreſt to ſeeke for him. But when they ſawe him comming, they were all filled with great ioy, & went to meete him, to whom he recounted all his aduenture, and of the finding of the childe, which when they had heard, and beheld him, they much admired as well his ſtrange finding, as alſo the rareneſſe of his beautie, then which they imagined neuer to haue ſeene any more accompliſhed: ſome imagining this, ſome that, and all they knew not what, this paſt they away the time vntill they were come, where their ſhippes ancored, and going aboord the next day, hauing the wind faire, and the ſeas indifferently calme, they ſet ſaile in ſo happie a houre, that within foure daies after they arriued in the Dutchie of Saxonie, at a port called Leton, from whence they rode towards the Cittie of Brenſweke, where then the Dutches was remaining, of whom and the whole Cittie, the Duke was moſt louingly receiued, and welcomed home, who preſently after his comming

to the Pallace, he demaunded for his young sonne, who being brought before him, he caused likewise the childe which he found in the Forrest to be brought also, who being both together, a man might very hardly knowe the one from the other, but that the Saxon Prince, was something the bigger, as being elder by fire monthes, and had also as then somewhat the better collor, being norished with more wholsomer diet. After they had a while beheld and played with the children, the Duke declared vnto the Dutches, and rest of the Lords and Ladies there present, the manner of his finding, as before is recited, and likewise willed to haue him brought vp, as acompanion with his sonne, desiring the Dutches to bee as carefull of him, as of her owne, assuring her that his minde gaue him, how that the childe was issued of a Noble bloode: & because they knewe not by what name to call him, the Duke willed him to bee called the Gentleman of the Forrest, which name we must vse vntill such time, as fortune shall make knowne, from whence he is procéeded. Heere againe will wee leaue him, and returne to speake of the Quéene his mother, whom we left in a traunce in the Caue, where hauing line a long while, and at length come vnto herselfe againe, and remembring the losse of her childe, fell to weeping, and renting, and tearing her face with her nailes, pulling her haire from her head, and cursing herselfe which had taken no better care of him: then comming foorth of the Caue, she went crying vp and downe, causing the woods to resound the eccho of her son, séeking whether shee could in any place perceaue, either by bloud or other signe, if he were deuoured of the wild beasts, and finding none, she fell againe to séeke in euery bush, if happily hee might be crept therein, but all in vaine bestowed she her paines good Lady, to séeke for him which in that place could not bee found, for God had otherwise ordained, for the bringing vp of the child, as you haue already heard, though vnknowne to the good Ladie his mother, who was now in such extreame griefe, not finding nor knowing what was become of her childe, that

ſhe became as franticke, wæping, & crying, vp and downe the Forreſt all that day, and moſt part of the night, till being forced with wearineſſe ſhe ſat downe, and reſted herſelfe. Where ſitting a while, and contemplating her ſorrowes, one whiles there would come into her minde, the remembrance of her huſband, and her former eſtate, being in ioy and proſperitie, the calling to minde whereof, did ſtrike into her the greater ſorrowe: for being in miſerie, there is no greater griefe, then to call to minde forepaſſed pleaſures: then againe, would come into her minde her viſion, which ſhe ſawe in the Forreſt, and the hope of future ioyes, which thereby was promiſed, which did ſomewhat againe mittigate her ſorrowe, thus paſſed ſhee away all that night, in wæping and lamentations, neither caring nor thinking what might become of her, ſo exceſſiue was her griefe.

CHAP. VII.

How the Queene the next day got out of the Forreſt; and how ſhe placed herſelfe in a Moneſtrie, neere to the Citty of Maiance.

THe night bæing paſt, and beautifull Aurora comming againe to the vievve of this hether worlde, whoſe welcome the chærefull Birds rang forth, with many a pleaſant tune, to the comfort of all earthly creatures: the wofull Lady, who of all the night had not once ſuffred her eyelids to cloſe, nor giuen nature her due by ſlæpe, riſing vp from the place where ſhe had remained all night, began againe to renew her former ſorrow, ſometimes curſing & raging at her euill fortune, then againe blaming herſelfe for her impatience, which was not able to indure thoſe croſſes which God for her tryall had layd vpon her.

Thus at length ſomewhat comforted with the hope ſhee had, that the prouidence of the moſt Highest, might turne

all her afflictions and crosses, into ioyes and blessings, and likewise that in time, she might recouer, according to the Vision which shee had seene at her first comming into ỹ forrest, both her husband and sonne, shée determined to make triall if she might get forth of the Forrest, which if she could, she would vnknowne trauell vnto some Monestary, or religious house, where shée meant to spend ỹ rest of her time to her soules comfort: but first she determined to make triall if her husband were returned or not. So hapning on a by path, onwards she went so farre, that by the time that Phœbus golden Chariot was ascended into the mide heauens, shee found herselfe euen at the place, where first in company of the King, and theyr traine of Lords & Ladies, shée entred the wood, at such time as they were set on by the Out-lawes. Where beholding the place, and calling to minde that there beganne the head and well-spring of all her troubles, and miseries which shée had since that time indured, brake forth into these, or such like spéeches.

O thou accursed place, reserued onely of the diuine powers to be a plague and hell to those, who willingly not so much as in thought offended against them. I beséech the Almightie protector of heauen and earth, that thou mayest for euer-more proue barren and vnfruitfull, and that these thy goodly trées and bushes, which were a couert vnto those damned wretches, which seperated me from that péerlesse Prince and my déere loue, may hereafter neuer beare neither fruite nor leaues, but may presently wither away and die: as did that figge trée which thou, O Sauiour Christ, diddest curse for not yéelding of fruite in ỹ time of thy hunger, going frõ Bethania to Ierusalem. Thus accursing that place, and the whole Forrest, shee directed her course towards Maiance, where by reason of her long absence, and the altering of her apparrell, through time & her best skill, shée entred vnknowne of any, where shee found such an alteration, that she could scarcely beleiue that to be the Citty, which in former time shée had séene so much to florish, in costly and braue shewes: and not knowing well what to imagin,

imagin, ſhée ſecretlie inquired as well the cauſe of this ſtrange alteration, as alſo whether there were any certain newes of the Kings being aliue or dead. All which at large was declared vnto her, as well the cauſe of ſorrow, which generally did appeare through all the Cittie, for the loſſe of the King, as alſo the new gouernment of the ſtate, which was diſliked of many: but whether the King were liuing or no, that was not knowne, ſo ſecretly did that Tyrant Griffory cauſe his impriſonment to be conceald.

But at length, hauing made what inquirie ſhe could, not minding to make her ſelfe knowne, ſhe returned againe out of the Citty, and went vnto a Monaſtary ſome three miles diſtant, called the Monaſtry of our Lady, where comming to the Gouerneſſe, ſhe intreated to be entertained amongſt the Religious Votaries. Affirming herſelfe to be a poore deſolate widdow, who béeing by death diſpoyled of all cõfort had determined to end the remnant of her life in prayer, and thankſgiuing vnto her Creator, truſting thereby to find comfort for her ſoule in the world to come. The Abbeſſe béeing a very deuout and religious woman, marking not onely her outward geſture, which was a plaine demonſtration of inward griefe, but alſo conſidering her rare beutie, which though it were not ſet forth by any Art or abilliments, yet in that careleſſe and couert ſort, did it appeare to be moſt ſinguler, demaunded of her many queſtions, which ſhe anſwered in ſuch good and modeſt ſort, that ſhée grew thereby in great liking, and good opinion of her, entertaining her amongſt the reſt of her Siſters, where ſhee behaued herſelfe in ſuch good ſort, that in ſhort time ſhe gained to herſelfe, not onely the loue of all the houſe, but alſo the fame of her godly liuing, was ſpredde abroade through all the country adioyning, to the great commendation, and famouſing of the Monaſtry. Where wee will leaue her in her godly meditations, and returne a little to declare what hapned to the Lord Gwaltero, and Sir Henault, with the reſt of their company, that toke on them the ſearch of their King.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Lord *Gwaltero*, the Lord of *Menew*, and Sir *Henault*, with diuers others, were deuided by a ſtrange aduenture: and what hapned vnto the Lord *Gwaltero* thereby.

IT is to be remembred before, how the Lord Gwaltero, the Lord of Menew, and Sir Henault, with diuers others, taking on them the ſearch of their King, began their iourney from Maiance, reſoluing not to returne without ſome certaine newes of him whō they ſought for: thus trauailing on together through moſt part of Denmark, they hapned at length cōming into a Forreſt, to meet a Squire on horſback, making all the ſpeede that poſſibly he might: euer looking backwards, as if ſome body had purſued him. At length, meeting with the Lord Gwaltero, and the reſt of the company, who were in all to the number of twelue Knights, beſides their Squires, and thinking by the coſtly Armor which he ware, him to be the chiefeſt in the companie, alighted from his horſe, and falling on his knées, with the teares ſtanding in his eyes, ſpake as followeth.

Moſt curteous Knight, for ſo much my minde aſſureth you to be, I humbly beſeech you, and the reſt of your company heere preſent, for the honour of knight hood, and the loue that you ought to beare to all diſtreſſed Ladies and Damſels, that you wil doe ſo much as ſuccour and reuenge a moſt beautifull Lady, who euen now in this Forreſt béeing trauailing to a brothers houſe of hers, ſome 3. leagues diſtance from her owne, béeing accompanied with her huſband, my Lord and Maiſter, and ſome foure or fiue attendants more, whom I feare mee by this time are all neere hand ſlaine, or grieuouſly wounded, by a ranck Traytor, who hauing long time ſued vnto my Lady for laſciuious loue, and not béeing able to maintaine the ſame, by reaſon of her chaſt and honeſt denials: this morning, knowing

that

that ſhe was to paſſe this way, accompanied himſelfe with ſome tenne or twelue, as wickedly diſpoſed as himſelfe, whom hee had made acquainted with his villainous pretence, vnawares ſet vppon vs, & at the firſt incounter grieuouſly wounded my Lord, by reaſon he was vnarmed, hauing nothing but his ſword to defend himſelfe, as not douting any ſuch euill.

Thus concluding his tale with whole flods of teares, which iſſued from his ſorrowfull eyes, which moued pitty in all the beholders, eſpecially in the Lord Gwaltero, who not long before had taſted the like miſhap: willing ỹ ſquire to ſtand vp, and comfort himſelfe, aſſuring him, that he had met with thoſe, who would reuenge the wrong which hee had declared vnto them. Wherefore willing him to ſhewe which way he ſhould take, he ſet ſpurres to his horſe, and galloped as faſt as hee could, hoping to come ſone enough to their ſuccour: which when the reſt of his companie beheld, they followed after as faſt as they could, but had not rodden long before they had loſt ſight of him, by reaſon of the thickneſſe of the wood, and the ſwiftnes of his horſe, which was accounted to be the beſt in all the Kingdome. Thus galloping onwards, at length he came where ỹ way deuided it ſelfe into three ſeuerall paths, and taking that on the right hand, as thinking it to be the right way, hee rode on ſtill, neuer loking backe for his cõpany, ſo earneſt was his mind, ſet on the reſcue of the Lady and her huſband. The reſt comming after, when they came vnto the place where the way deuided it ſelfe, knew not well what to doe, nor which way to take, yet at length, beeing directed by the Squire, the moſt of them, as Sir Henault, and the Lord of Menew, toke that way which ledde directly forth betweẽ the other two, appointing ſome to take the other wayes to follow the Lord Gwaltero, if peraduenture he had miſſed in his way. Amongſt which his Squire & two other knights, the one named Sir Brewes, the other Sir Cadrus, toke the way which he before had roden.

The Lorde Gwaltero, as wee haue ſaid before, beeing

Pelle

pricked on with a desire to rescue those which were distressed, made such hast, that after he had passed the place where the wayes deuided it selfe, and hauing rodden about two miles from the place, met with a peasant driuing of cattell before him, of whom he inquired, whether he had sæne any company thereabouts fighting? or any Knights or gentlemen slaine? The peasant made aunswere he saw no such, but some halfe a mile before, he met foure Knights crossing the way towards a little Castle, some two leagues of, leading a very faire Lady pittifully wæping, whō he thought they constrained to goe onwards against her will. When Gwaltero had heard this, he assured himselfe that this was the same Lady whom he went to rescue, wherefore demanding which way they went, the peasant shewed him where they were riding vp a little hill, almost a mile before him, which when he beheld, he spurred on faster then before hæ had done, so that before they were attained vnto the sight of their Castle, he had ouertaken them in a fayre meddow, betwæne two small hills. And calling to them, sayd, Traytors turne, and deliuer me that Lady, whom so villainously you haue carried away, or your liues shall pay my sworde her raunsome.

They hearing him call, and loking backe, sæing but one Knight alone persuing them, stayed, and he who ledde the Ladies horse by the raines, being a very bigge and comly Knight, answered: foolish and most simple Knight, thinkest thou me so fond or faint harted, that only at thy threats, who art able to performe nothing but in words, I will deliuer this my prize whom I haue gotten so hardly, and with the price of much bloud, or that my loue towards her is so small, so lightly to part from her. No, no, I counsell thæ rather for thy owne safegard to depart away, or else this my Launce shall make your passe port to old Caron. Gwaltero hearing this, and being no longer able to indure those braues, placed his Launce in his rest, and setting spurres to his horse, they ranne together like lightning, and at the encounter their speares flew into ỹ aire, Gwal-

tero

tero paſſing on without any hurt at all, but the other Knight whoſe name was Brandon, being wounded a little in the left ſide, was ſo ſore aſtonied with the ſtroke, that he could hardly containe himſelfe, from falling from his horſe: which Gwaltero perceauing, his carreare ended, returned againe with his ſword in his hand, then meeting the one the other, there beganne a fierce and doubtfull combat, which had foorthwith ended by a ſtroke that the Lord Gwaltero gaue him on the right ſhoulder, which was ſo mighty, that breaking his pouldron, wounded him ſhrewdly in the ſhoulder, and ſliding downe farther, cut him into the thigh, with paine whereof hee fell from his horſe: which when the reſt of his companie beheld, all at once they aſſailed him, charging him ſo roughly, that hee was likely to haue gone beſides his Saddle, had he not taken hold on the horſe maine with his hands, but they had no great cauſe long to boaſt thereof, for gathering all his forces together, and raſing himſelfe in his ſtirrup, hee tooke one of them ſo ſound a blow on the Helme, that the ſteele not able to keepe out the ſtroke, claue his head to the teeth, to the great diſcomfort of the reſt. Who ſeeing one of their companis ſlaine, and their Captaine lying on the ground, in little better ſort, determined either to bee reuenged, or elſe to followe them in the like misfortune: raging & chafing, ꝑ one only Knight ſhould be able to make reſiſtãce againſt them: aſſaulted him more fiercely then they had done before. One of them whoſe Launce remained whole, determined to charge him on the backe, and comming behind him with his full carreare, at ſuch a time as he was raiſing himſelfe in his ſtirrups, to haue ſtriken one that was before him, gaue him ſuch a cruell ſtroke, that cauſed him tumble headlong ouer his horſe necke, and had not his Armor beene exceeding good, that blowe had made an end of the combat: but hee who was reſerued for other purpoſes, feeling himſelfe ſo cowardly ſtriken, quickly recouered his feete, and defended himſelfe valiently, though with more diſaduantage then before, whereby he receaued

many wounds, and was likely to haue bene ouercome, for by this time Brandoll had againe recouered his scences, and seeing the Knight who had brought him into that case, to continue still fighting against his Knights, and had already slaine one of them, being urged forwards, both with shame and griefe, taking his sword in his hand, hee ranne vpon him like a fierce vnskilfull mastiue, who being once tossed by the sturdie bull, commeth on more hastily then before: but Gwaltero perceauing him comming, seeming to meete him lightly, made a thrust at one of the Knights horses, which charged him on horse-backe, which thrust lighted so luckily, that so piercing his belly, hee caused him with his Maister to tumble to the ground, where by reason of one of his feete being in the stirrup, he could not so suddenly rise againe, by which meanes Gwaltero the more easier delt with Brandoll, and the other Knight, who seeing his fellowes mischance, dismounted himselfe for feare of the like mishap: now grew the foote combat more hote and fierce then that on horse-backe, by reason that Gwaltero perceauing himselfe almost wearied, and fearing the comming of the other Knight, whose foote was in the stirrup vnder his horse, layd on with al his might, but Brandoll being a strong Knight as most in that Country, seemed to set light by his furie, and charged him againe with so many mighty blowes, as well hee gaue him to vnderstand, that he knew better how to fight on foote, then on horse-backe.

The good Lady in the meane time sate weeping on her palfrie, being held by two of Brandolls Squiers, euer praying and beseeching God, to preserue and defend the strange Knight, whose vertue and prowesse she much admired, and whom she feared was not long able to indure the brunt of the battaile, for that the other Knight hauing recouered himselfe from vnder his horse, came likewise to to the combat, to her great griefe and sorrowe. But casting away her head from the sight of the battaile, as loth to see the death of him, who had so valiantly fought in her de-

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fence, ſhe eſpied two Knights with a Squire, come gallo-ping as faſt as their horſes could runne, whom ſhee like-wiſe feared to be ſome of Brandolls companie, but therein ſhe was deceaued as you ſhall heare in the next Chapter.

CHAP. IX.

How Sir *Brewes*, and Sir *Cadrus*, with the Lord *Gwalteros* Squire came to his reſcue, and how they conducted the Lady to her Caſtle.

SIR Brewes, and Sir Cadrus the two Knights, which toke the way after the Lord Gwaltero, accompanied with his Squire, thinking becauſe he had taken the wrong way, that hee ſhould haue had no occaſion of fighting, made the leſſer ſpeede after him, vntil ſuch time, that comming vnto the top of the hill which he had paſſed, where the peaſant ſhowed him the foure Knights that ledde away the Lady, from which place they beheld them fighting, and thinking that it might be Gwaltero, they ſet ſpurres to their horſes, and galloped ſo faſt, that they were come within the calling, euen as the Knight who was hanging by the ſtirrupe had recouered himſelfe. Then Sir Cadrus cryed to the ſayd villaines, giue ouer fighting with that alone Knight, and defend your ſelues from the force of my Launce, and there with gaue one of them ſo ſound a buffet, that he had no neede at all to ſeeke for a Surgion, for his Launce entring in at his breſt, paſſed through his hart almoſt a yeard. Sir Brewes ranne at the other and miſſed course, but turning againe with his ſword in his hand, gaue him ſuch a blowe on the head, that cleauing his Helme, and wounding him ſome-what deepe, cauſed him halfe aſtonied to fall to the ground. Gwaltero ſeeing this vnexpected ayde, being almoſt be-fore in vtter diſpayre of victory, gaue Brandoll a ſore blow on the right legge, and cloſing with him, by cleane force o-uerthrew him to the ground, then ſetting his foote on his

neere, he raised of his Helme, and with one blow parted his head from his shoulders. And comming to the other whom Sir Brewes had wounded, would haue done as much for him, but that hee immediatly fell on his knées, crying for mercy, protesting for euer after to be at his commaund in all places whatsoeuer. Gwaltero vppon this his promise, granted him pardon, swearing him for euer after, not to offer wrong nor violence, to any Lady or Gentlewoman.

Then turning to Sir Brewes, and Sir Cadrus, hee gaue them hartie thanks for their succour, without which he had béene doubtlesse slaine. Demaunding of them likewise, what was become of the Lord of Menew, sir Henault, and the rest. And they told him how they parted at the 3. waies, to goe succour the Lady whom hee had so well rescued, telling him likewise, that they did admire how or by what meanes the Lady was brought thether, seeing it was in the other way that ledde directly forward that they set on her and her husband, as the Squire informed them.

By this time the Lady being let goe by the two Squiers that held her, (who séeing their Maister slaine, made hast by flight to saue their owne liues, which they might easily doe, for that no man pursued them,) came vnto the Lord Gwaltero, and falling on her knées before him, gaue him most humble thankes, as well for the safegard of her owne honor, which shée estéemed farre afore life, as also for reuenging her husbands death: whom Brandoll in the former fight had slaine, with some two or thrée of their seruaunts, who put themselues in their defence, with all, offering him many large proffers for reward. But Gwaltero taking her by the hand, raised her from the ground, willing her to be of good comfort, assuring her whatsoeuer hée had done for her, was but his, and the dutie of euery good Knight, and therefore willed her to attribute it, not to him but to God, who is the reuenger of all wrongs: and to account of him but as an instrument, appointed by God to minister iustice on those murderers. Then the Ladie entreated him and the rest, to conduct her vnto a Castle of

hers,

hers, ſome two leagues of, where ſhe would intreate them to reſt themſelues, vntill ſuch time as his woundes were throughly cured, which ſhould be done by a damſell of hers, very expert in the Art of Surgery. Vnto which requeſt, they eaſily conſented, eſpecially the Lord Gwaltero, whoſe hart was already wounded with the Ladies beautie. Then binding vp his wounds as well as they could, they mounted on horſebacke, directing their courſe towards the foreſaid Caſtle, & the better to paſſe away the time, Gwaltero beganne to queſtion with the Lady of many matters, eſpecially of the cauſe of the late combat, which ſhee declared vnto him, with ſuch a modeſt and comlie grace that hée béeing before a little wounded with Cupids ſhaft, was now ſo altogether ouercome with loue, that either he muſt néedes ſue for grace, or die by concealing his affection: ſo feruent was the flame, and ſo weake his reſiſtance.

By this time were they paſſed moſt part of their way, and were come vnto the Caſtle, euen about the time, that the Sunne drawing into the Weſt, ſéemed to take leaue of the view of theſe hether Regions, where by the Lady they were moſt kindly receiued: and welcommed with ſuch chéere, as the ſuddennes of the time could affoord. After Supper, the Lorde Gwaltero béeing brought into a moſt goodly and fayre Chamber, had his wounds carefully looked vnto, and dreſſed. Then beeing layd in a riich bedde, imbrodred very coſtly with gold and pearle, and curiouſly wrought with imagry, and other ſumptuous ſhewes, where beeing layd, the good Lady curteouſly bad him good night, willing him to commaund for all things in the Caſtle as his owne. Then departing away, leauing him in a world of imaginations, ſhée tooke order for the interring of her Huſbands bodie, which the nert day was effected with great ſolemnitie, according to the cuſtome of the country then vſed.

CHAP. X.

Howe *Gwalsero*, with his company, staying the healing of his wounds, made his loue knowne to the Lady, with his succesſe therein, and of his departure in his queſt.

THe Lord Gwalsero and his company, staying the curing of his wounds, which were most carefully loked vnto, and dressed by the same Damsell which had them in cure, was euery day visited continually by ý Ladie of the place, who shewed herselfe so thankfull vnto him, that she almost neuer would depart frõ his presence, which bred in him such ardent desire, that not beeing able longer to conceale his loue, one day shee beeing sitting by his bedside, none beeing in presence, but his Squire, and the damsell that attended his wounds, taking her by the hand, and fixing his eyes stedfastly on her face, said.

Gracious Lady, I doe not knowe, nether can I immagine, how these my speeches, which at this time I shall bee forced to vetter, may be by you accepted, yet trusting in the gentleneſſe of your kind nature, haue made choise rather to open my griefe vnto you, then by concealing thereof, or euer to languish in paine. Know then, that since the first time it was my hap (when I fought with Brandoll and his companie) for to see you, that then your rare and singular beauty, wounded me more farre deeper, then did either their swords or Launces, which since by your continuall courtisies, and by your many exquisite vertues, which I haue behold in you, are so much augmented and increased, that vnleſſe you of your excellent bounty, take pitty and compaſſion on me, and with speede yeeld some reliefe vnto this my oppressed passions, I knowe not what to expect saue death onely, which if you should proue pitteleſſe, it would be most welcome vnto me: wherefore let me intreate you, to consider these my passions, and to ease them with pitty, and thereby shall you gaine vnto your

selfe

ſelfe for euer, a true Knight, and a conſtant louer. Thus concluding his ſpeech with a moſt deepe ſigh, proceeding from the bottome of his hart, he remained ſilent, attending her anſwere, which ſhould be to him either as life or death, to which ſhe replied.

My Lord, I cannot but muſe at this your diſcourſe, neither can I chuſe but ſmile, to ſee your honor ſo merrily diſpoſed, to ieſt at me in this kind of ſort, hoping that mirth is a ſigne of ỹ amendment of your wounds, which to me would bee moſt ioyfull, ſeeing that in my defence you receaued them. But if theſe your ſpeeches proceede from you in earneſt, knowe then, that the beauty which you ſay hath inflamed you, in my conceit is of no ſuch force, as to wound a man of your worth, neither is it likely that ſo ſudden a liking as you ſpeake of, ſhould bee able to worke any ſuch effect, if my curteſies haue beene the cauſe, they were neuer more then you deſerued, and therefore to be eſteemed by you as a debt due from mee to be payd: if my vertues which you ſpeake of, they alas are ſo fewe, and ſmall, that they are not to be accounted of, but yet ſuch I hope, which rather ſhould giue you an occaſion, to ſeeke to others, then any ſhow to yeild vnto your lawleſſe loue: for know for a ſuerty ỹ Menea, for ſo was ſhe called, regardeth more her honor & good name, then ſhe doth all the riches or wealth of this world, knowing the one to be but momentarie, the other perpetuall: wherefore I beſeech your honor to giue of theſe vaine ſutes. But if you ſeeke to inioy me as your wife, which I thinke you will take ſcorne of, I being but a poore Lady, and deſcended but of a meane Parentage, in reſpect of your Lordſhip, yet notwithſtanding conſider I beſeech you, the late death of my huſband, whom if I ſhould ſo ſone forget, it would for euer be accounted a great ignomie, and ſhame vnto me.

The Lord Gwaltero, at theſe laſt ſpeeches interrupting her, replied, moſt beautifull Lady, thinke not that I goe about any way to diſhonor you, neither that thoſe my former ſpeeches to be fained, but whatſoeuer I haue ſpoken

to proceede from the sinceritie, and bottome of my hart, which is, and for euer shall remaine yours, whilst the fates shall permit me to inioy this breath, which I wish no longer to continue, then I remaine your faithfull and constant Knight protesting before the almighty God: neuer to accept of any other wife, so you thereto consent, in witnesse whereof, I heere deliuer you this ring: then taking a faire Diamond from one of his fingers, he would haue put it on hers, but she withdrawing her hand, made him answere, that shee had made a solemne vowe to God, which shee was minded to performe, which was, that for one whole yeare, shee would neuer consent to marry with any one whatsoeuer, but if it pleased his Lordship, so to esteeme of her, as to accept her for his wife, at the end of that appointed time which she had set: he should find her most ready & willing to obey vnto his will, in any that might not bee to her dishonor.

Gwaltero gladded to the hart, with this heauenly conclusion, and beeing as one newly reuiued out of some dead traunce, toke her in his armes and kissed her, protesting that he would most willingly remaine so contented, vntill the fixed time were expired, and then God willing, he would returne and espouse her: in ỹ meane time he intreated her, to accept of that his small Ring, which should be a cause for her to remember him by, which she then most willingly accepted, and in requitall thereof, gaue vnto him a Jewell of hers, which hee alwaies after either in Tilt or Turnie wore, being fastned in the creast of his Helme, and which at all times put him in minde of his Lady and Mistris. Thus by the comming in of Sir Cadrus, and Sir Brewes, with diuers Gentlemen and Damsels, which came to see the Lord Gwaltero, their loue talke gaue ouer for that time, entertaining the others with diuers pleasant and merrie discourses, wherewith they accustomed to passe away the time, euer thinking it long till they might be in their former quest, which was the sooner, for that Gwaltero being comforted, with the hope of future pleasure and content,

tent, was healed much the ſooner of his wounds, ſo that within fiftéene daies, hee was able to beare Armor: and finding himſelfe indifferent ſtrong, toke order with the reſt of his companie, the next day to depart onwards, on their way towards the confines of Denmarke, where they hoped to haue ſome ioyfull tidings of him whom they ſought, or at leaſt waies to méete againe with the Lord Menew, & Sir Henault, whom the Lord Gwaltero dærely loued. Thus hauing taken order for the preparing of their iourny, the next day they all tooke their leaue of their kind hoſtis: and Gwaltero taking her aſide, deſired her with the teares ſtanding in his eyes, to be mindefull of her former promiſe, aſſuring her, if God did grant him life and liberty, hee would returne againſt the ſired time by her appointed, to ſolemnize their marriage, in the meane time he would commend her into the protection of the almighty God. But ſhe good Lady, not being able to ſpeake for wéeping, held him about the necke, often kiſſing him, as one loth ſo ſone to forgoe his companie, yet at the laſt, ſéeing no remedie, intreated him to remember her and his promiſe, vntill which time of his returne, ſhe would ſpend her daies in prayer, for his ſafe and proſperous ſucceſſe. Thus departed theſe two Loners, whom we will leaue for a while, to ſpeake of other matters.

CHAP. XI.

How the Lord of *Menew* and Sir *Henault*, hapned to arriue in the Citie of *Parris*, & of the Turnie there proclaimed by the Duke of *Orleance*.

THe Lord of Menew, and Sir Henaule, taking the direct way which they were informed, to reſcue the Lady, and her huſband, rode on a great pace, till ſuch time that comming vnto the place, where the battaile had béene fought but a little before, found ẏ dead bodies of the auncient Knight, and diuers of his ſer-

uants: but for the murtherers, they could not knowe what was become of them, because they had taken a bie and vnknowne way, which ledde them as before is sayd, vnto their destruction. Wherefore taking their way towards the next Towne, they rode on hastily, minding to stay there vntill they might heare some newes of the Lord Gwaltero, whom they imagined would likewise arriue there, the next day at the farthest. But hereof being deceaued by reason of the occasions before recited, after they had remained there some three daies loking for him, they departed towards the Sea-side, and comming to a Towne called Forefront, they found diuers Ships bound to seueral coasts, wherefore deuiding their selues, some to one Country, some into another, the Lord of Menew, & Sir Henault, being loth to part companie, shipped thẽselues for Fraunce, hoping there either to find him whom they sought for, or else to purchase fame by their prowesse within that Kingdome: and soner then in any other might it be obtained, if they showed themselues valerous, by reason of ẏ continual turnaments, which were dayly vsed there by the Nobles, and Knights of tha region. And being shipped, and hauing wind at will, they set saile so prosperously, ẏ within eight daies after they landed at Calice: where they a while stayed, as well to refresh themselues after their comming from the Sea, as also to view the Towne and Country thereabouts, and to make inquirie, if peraduenture they might heare of him, in whose Quest they went.

Thus hauing stayd there twelue or fourtẽne daies, not learning any newes at all of their infortunate King, they tooke their way towards the royall Cittie of Paris, where the King then kept his Court, with a great assemblie of Lords and Ladies, which were then drawne together to behold a great Turny, proclaimed by the Duke of Orleance, by the Kings consent, against all strangers: the occasion of which Turny grew by this meanes. The Duke bẽing a lustie young Knight, was inamoured on ẏ Kings eldest daughter, a most beautifull and godly Lady, who

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for her grace, vertues, and beautie, had not her equall in all the kingdome of Fraunce, beeing called Emilia, whoſe perfections had ſo intangled his hart, that hee could not by any meanes free himſelfe from beeing thrall to her beautie: and thinking no meanes better to winne a fayre Lady, then by ſhewing himſelfe valiant, hee continually frequented Tylts and Turnyes, oftentimes carrying away the cheefeſt prizes of valour: which was a meanes not onely to obtaine great loue, and fauour of the King, but alſo drew to him ſome liking of his Lady and Miſtris, the Princes Emilia, which ſhe ſometimes would make ſhewe of, by her kind countenaunce, and pleaſant ſpæches to him: which curteſies put him in ſuch an exceeding hope, and pride withall, that thinking himſelfe halfe ſure of her loue, and that beeing graſt with the ſame, no man was able to compare with him, neither in happines nor valour: one day perceiuing the King to be walking alone, in a pleaſant & delightfull Garden, adioyning to the Pallace, came vnto him, and falling into ſome conference with him, at laſt intreated his Maieſtie to grant him leaue to proclaime a Turny, which hee, and ſome certaine number of Knights of the Court, would defend againſt all commers, for the ſpace of 3 daies. And that after, by the ſpace of ſixe dayes more, hæ himſelfe would kæpe the field, and defend againſt all commers, his Miſtreſſe the Princeſſe Emilia, to excell all others in beautie, whatſoeuer.

The King hearing his demaund, and conſidering the great danger which thereby might happen to him, diſſwaded him from it, aſſuring him, that it would be impoſſible to continue againſt ſo many, as would hazard themſelues in that enterprize: and that although he by his valor might ouercome many hardie and gallant Knights, yet at length, beeing wearie, & tyred with ouermuch labour, might peraduenture be vanquiſhed, by one inferior to thoſe whom before he had ſubdued, whereby hee ſhould loſe his former reputation, gotten with no ſmall perrill and danger. This and many other matters, did the King alleage vnto him,

to cause him to giue ouer that enterprise. But hee bæing as is before said, so puffed vp with a selfe conceit, & assurance of Fortunes fauour, imagining that on whom Venus smiled, Mars would not sæme to frowne, continued still verie importune, till at length, the King bæing ouercome by his earnestnesse, granted to his sute. Presently causing Heraults and messengers to be sent abroade into diuers places, to giue notice thereof: that euery one which desired to try his fortune in his Loues commendation, might be there to make triall at the day appointed.

In the meane time, the Duke ordained a place for the Tylt-yard, which was hard adioyning to ỳ Pallace, which he caused to be inuironed in with railes of great height, appoynting at each end a large gate or entrance, that tenne Knights on horsebacke might enter in front. The space within the rayles, was of that bignes, so that 5000 knights might well turny togethers, & round about were scaffolds erected for the beholders to sit on, sauing that part next to the Pallace, which was open for the King, the Quæne, and their Lord & Ladies, who standing in the windowes, and battlements of the Pallace, might with more safety behold the Turny. Likewise he caused another place to be inclosed, with onely one gate or entrance, hard adioyning to the part of the Pallace, where the King with the rest, might more conuenietly stand, to behold the single combats which by him should be foughten: and at the other end, he caused a rich Tent to be pight, which was of Blew veluet, sette thicke with starres of gold, and Flowre-deluces, shewing that he was descended from the blood royall. Upon the top thereof stoode Cupid, all naked, with his bow and arrowe in his hand, ayming directly at a faire picture of Marble, which stoode fast by the said Tent: on the top wherof was placed the portrature of the beautifull Princesse Emilia, which was so artificially made, that it sæmed to be the princesse herselfe: vnder whose fæte were diuers places made, for placing of their pictures, whose Knights should be ouercome by the Duke.

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In this ſort was all things ordained againſt the turnie, when the Lord Menew, Sir Henaule, and diuers other Knights, came into the Cittie, ſome two dayes before the Turny began, where they toke vp their lodging in an honeſt Burgeſſes houſe, making preparation for ſuch things as they ſhould want againſt the day.

CHAP. XII.

How the Duke, and the reſt of the Lords and Knights bare themſelues in the Turny, and how Prince *Edward* the laſt day bare away the Prize.

THe day beeing come that the Turny ſhould begin, and many Knights, and great Lords of diuers Countries come thether, ſome only to ſee, others to proue themſelues therin. The Duke of Orleance, as cheefe Challenger, accompanied with the Duke of Aniowe, the Lorde Mompenſeer, the Duke Robert of Normandy, the Marſhall de Berone, Francis the yong Prince of Condy, together with two thouſand other Knights, entred the Liſts at one end, at the other entred Charles the young Prince of Spayne, accompanied with Edward Prince of England, the Duke of Yorke, the Lord Mowbray, the lord Dowglaſſe of Scotland, the County of Zeland, the lord Mongomery, the young Henry of Burbon, two French lords, who becauſe they were not intreated by the Duke, and partly by reaſon they meant to proue themſelues againſt him, in the behalfe and triall of their Miſtriſſe beauty, entred the field againſt him, with the number of two thouſand, taking their places as he before had done.

The King and Queene beeing placed, all the other princes, Lords, and Ladies, toke alſo their places, where Emilia ſitting amongſt the reſt, ſeemed like Cinthia, placed amongſt the leſſer Starres, beeing in the fulnes of her power: or like Diana following her chaſe thorow the woods and lawnes, accõpanied with her traine of Nimphs, whoſe

paine in pursute, had raised in her Alablaster cheeks, a liuely vermilion die: so seemed the beautifull Princesse, hauing in her well proportioned face, the louely rose and lilly, striuing for maisterdome, which caused the lustie young Duke to be of such a courageous mind, that not beeing able longer to desist from the battaile, desired the Duke of Brittaine, and the County Palatine of Rene, who were appointed Iudges of the field, to cause the signall of battaile to begin, which was presently done, by the sound of a trumpet, and the Heraults crying to the Knights, euery man to doe his best.

Then ranne together, the Duke of Orleance, and Edward Prince of England, and met so fiercely together, that the Duke breaking his Launce on his enemies shield, caused him to stagger, and had hee not taken hold by his maine, hee had gone to measure his length on the ground, but the English Prince met him with no lesser might, for piercing his shield, his Launce lighted on his Gorget, causing him to lose both his stirrups, & with his head almost to touch the pummel of his saddle, which being seene by the King, was greatly commended: the Prince Charles of Spaine, and Robert of Normandie met likewise, and breaking their speares, past on without once mouing on the other, the Marshall of Berone, was dismounted by the Lord Mowbray, but rescued by the Duke of Aniow and others. By this time were the greatest part of the Knights met together, so that the cloudes seemed to be couered, with the splinters of the Launces which were broken, many on both sides were vnhorsed, and againe remounted by their fellowes, there might you haue seene some bling swords, other maces of Iron: twise that day was ỹ Prince Charles, beaten from his horse, and againe remounted by the Duke of Yorke, and Henry of Burbon. The Lord Douglas, this day showed, that the Scots were not much inferiour vnto any Nation for feats of Chiualrie, for beeing accompanied with the Lord Montgomerie, the Lord of Menew, Sir Henault, the Countie of Zeland, and some tenne or twelfe

other

other Knights, beate downe all those which put themselues against them, which being sæne to the Duke of Orleance was worse thē death, who being held very short by Prince Edward, the Lord Mowbray and others, so that he could hardly helpe any others, yet sæing the hauocke which was made by the Scot and his companie, fearing least they were preuented, he should loose the day: set spurres to his horse, and with his sword in his hand made such way, that at last he came where they were, and lifting vp his sword, gaue ỹ Scottish Earle such a blow, that bruising his Helme, caused him to fall besides his saddle, which blow beeing sæne by Sir Henault, was likewise partly reuenged: for with one blow which he strake, hee cleft the Dukes shield, and sliding downewards, wounded his horse in the shoulder. In the meane time the Spanish, and English Princes with their companie, were like to haue wonne the day, for that ỹ French, no longer able to indure their extreame blowes, began for to turne their backes: which being perceaued by the Judges, they forthwith caused the retreate to be sounded, thereby to saue the Challengers from shame. Then departed euery man the Lists for that night, returning to their lodgings, to refresh themselues against the next day: the King to showe the more honor vnto ỹ strange Princes, sent for them, desiring them for that night, to sup and rest themselues in his Pallace: vnto which many of them cõsented, where at supper they were roially feasted, and welcomed by the King and Quæne. And after the Tables being with-drawne, they fell to dauncing, masking, and courting of the Ladies and damsels: where the young Prince Edward dallying with the fire, was scorched by the flame, for taking the Princes Emilia by the hand to daunce, after they had ended their measure, fell to court her with pleasant speeches, which shee still most wittily answered, which Cupid beholding, wounded his hart with a poisoned shaft of loue, turning his iest into earnest: thus past they away most part of the night in dauncing and reuelling, vntil such time, that Ioue his eternall lampes, wherewith hee

lights

lights the nether world were halfe spent, and Atlas moist daughters stroue into the Ocean deep, to driue their weary droue: then departed these to their beds, where euery one quietly tooke their rest, except the English Prince, who of all the night could not inioy any sleepe, so sorely did the remembrance of his new loue torment him, sometimes determining to aske her of her Father, then thinking the Duke to haue a former promise of her, seeing hee vndertooke the defence of her beauty, was minded to fight with him for her, hoping either to kill him, and so to get her, or else by vanquishing him, to winne away her loue. With these and many such like imaginations, past he away the wearisome night, vntill about the breake of the day, Somnus seased on his ouer-watched eies: so that he slept vntill the sunne was two degrees from the earth ascended, then rising vp hee apparrelled himselfe, and went downe into the great Hall, where he found the King, withall the other Princes and great estates, ready to goe to the Chappell, to heare diuine seruice: whether likewise hee accompaned them, afterwards returning to the Pallace, they found the Tables couered for dinner, where they were all serued according to their estates, with most costly and daintie cates. Dinner being ended, euery one went to arme themselues for the Turnie: where the strangers bare themselues so valiently, that they wonne the honor from the Courtiers, which was such an extreame griefe vnto the Duke of Orleance, that for that night hee would not come to the Pallace, vowing the nert day to be reuenged, especially on the English Prince and his companie, who twise that day had beaten him from his horse. Most part of the rest spent the time, as they did the night before in daunceing, and such like pastime, where againe the English Prince, found meanes to Court his Mie, declaring vnto her his loue & affection: but she, who as yet was another waies minded, made small account of his prattle, scarce believing any thing that he sayd touching loue. The nert day the trumpets sounding, [illegible] Knights to prepare for the

Turnie,

Turnie, euery one deſirous to ſhowe himſelfe valiant and hardy: when entring the Liſts at the firſt encounter, the Engliſh Prince ſeeing the cheefe Challenger comming againſt him, and loking vp to the windolw where Emilia ſate, calling to minde his former determinations, was reſolued to doe him the greateſt diſgrace he might: the Duke on the other ſide was of the ſame opinion, for hee greatly feared leaſt the Prince would proue his coriuall in loue, by the often caſting vp of his head to the windolw where ſhee ſate. Thus being both reſolued, they met together ſo furiouſly, that the Duke was forced to forgoe his ſaddle, and meaſure his length on the graſſe, the Prince paſſing forwards ſorely ſhaken, hauing loſt both his ſtirrups: at length recouering himſelfe, entred the preaſe, where on all ſides he beate downe Knights, and vnbarred Helmes, making ſuch way where he went, that he might eaſily be followed of his companie, eſpecially the Prince Charles, Henry of Burbon, Sir Henault, the Lord of Menew, the Lord of Yorke, the Lord Mowbray, and others, who following the young Prince, ouerthrew all they met, cauſing the French to giue backe and retire, euery man thinking himſelfe happieſt, when he was fartheſt of.

On the contrarie ſide, Robert of Normandie, the Prince of Condie, the Duke of Aniow, and the Marſhall: with the aide of their followers, made that part where they were very hote and dangerous to the ſtrangers, vnhorſſing and beating downe many. The Duke of Aniow, with his Launce before he brake, ſtrake downe three Knights to the earth, at laſt, being incountred by the Lord Douglaſſe, was diſmounted and taken priſoner, in diſpight of all his company. The Duke of Orleance, being againe remounted, went raging vp and downe ſeeking for the Engliſh Prince, and comming to the Lord of Menew, gaue him ſuch a blow, that hee draue both horſe and man to the ground, which being ſeene by Sir Henault, like a man inraged rod to him, and gaue him ſuch a blow, that he cauſed him to bow his head to his breſt. But the Duke reco-

uering himselfe, returned him the like payment. Thus continued they two, laying the one on the other, like two Smithes, striking with their sleadges on an Anuill: till such time as the English Prince, with a mace of steele in his hand returned, & gaue the Duke so puissant a blow therewith, that breaking his shield to peeces so amased him, that his horse carried him from place to place in a sound, which being seene by the King, and thinking the Duke to be sore hurt: imagined likewise that it was impossible for any man to indure those mighty blowes, which he continually saw the Prince to giue, caused the Iudges to make an end of the battaile, which was presently doone, euery one attributing the cheefe honor to the English Prince, especially the King, causing foorthwith a Herault of Armes to proclaime him, the cheefest Knight in the assembly: and being brought to the windowe where ỹ King sate, by the Iudges of the field, had a Garland of flowers set vpon his head by the faire Emilia. Which as she was doing, vnawares was something touched with loue towards him, which being by her then suffred to kindle, afterwards grew into a great flame. Thus being crowned as King of all Knights, hee was conducted with great honor to the Pallace, the Duke of Orleance, being mightily grieued with his disgrace, as also fearing the dislike of Emilia, retired to his Tent, minding not to come foorth of the Listes, till such time as hee had recouered some part of his lost honor.

CHAP. XIII.

How the Duke defending his Ladies beautie, ouercame diuers Knights, & how the English Prince being disguised, entred the Lists.

THe next day, no sooner had bright Aurora vnbard her christall gates, and bridgrome like stept forth, the glorious sunne spreading her siluer raies on old Neptunes face, but that the lusty Duke prickt on with his former

former dayes diſgrace, hoping to recouer his loſt honour, was all armed, ſitting on horſeback with his Launce in his hand, cauſing the trumpets to ſound, to ſummon vnto the battel thoſe, who in defence of their Ladies beauties, would hazard thẽſelues, to try the doubtfull verdit of angry Mars. The Duke bare in his ſhield the portrature of a man, with the one hand renting his owne bowels, and with the other preſenting his hart to a fayre Lady, which ſeemed little to regard or to eſteeme the ſame, with this word or motto written ouer their heads, I liue through hope: all the reſt of his Armor was ſet full of flaming harts, which ſeemed very liuely to burne.

Hee had not long remained on horſebacke, before ſuch time that the King, and moſt part of the Lords and Princes, hauing taken their places to behold the iſſue of his enterprize, there entred the liſtes a gallant young Knight, ſonne vnto the Marcus of Ferara, his Armor all greene, and in his Shield he bare two harts combind in one, with theſe words, Nil timeo. Hee brought likewiſe a ſmall cheſt couered ouer with thinne plates of ſiluer, in which was incloſed the liuely portrature of his Lady, who was daughter vnto the Duke of Millaine. In this ſort comming vnto the Duke, he told him, vnleſſe he were miſinformed, the contents of his Challenge was, that thoſe Knights that by him were ouercome, ſhould leaue behind them their coate-armors, and alſo their Miſtriſes portrature, to be placed at the feete of the fayre Emilia, and ſo to depart: but whoſoeuer ſhould ouercome him, ſhould likewiſe haue the diſpoſing of the portratures that there were hanging, and to defend the Challenge the reſt of the time, except he hapned likewiſe to be vanquiſht. The Duke aunſwered, that the ſame was his Challenge: but the coate-armors were to be put of preſently if they were vnhorſed, and afterwards, if they would hazard the Combat with him, they ſhould. And as for the portratures, hee hoped his ſhould be the firſt which ſhould be placed, ſeeing the difference of their beauties did already manifeſt it.

Then departing the one from the other, they placed their Launces in theyr rests, and setting spurres to their horses, they met together so fiercely, that their Speares flew into the ayre: and comming together with their bodies, they strake one the other so rudely, that the Duke lost both his stirrups, and was forced to stay himselfe by his horse neck, but the other was ouerthrowne horse & man to the ground, and by chance not able to cléere himselfe, was sore bruised by his horse, not béeing able to get vp againe: then ỹ Duke dismounting, holpe to get him from vnder his horse, which curtesie the other perceiuing, presently put off his coate armor and departed the Listes, béeing by reason of his bruse not able to combat. Then the Duke caused his Ladies picture to be placed at the féete of Emilia, and calling vnto him one of his Pages, sent her the Coate armor, which she receaued, willing him to tell his Maister, hee had doone more then she desired.

Next vnto him of Ferrara, entred the Lists that day, the Lord of Montgomery, bringing with him the picture of the Duke of Poyters daughter, whom he earnestly loued, and was likewise at the second course vnhorsed, to his great sorow, but yet not minding to hazard the Combat, because the Duke was accounted the best combatter on foote in all Fraunce, departed. After him came diuers others, who were all serued in the same sort, for that day he vnhorsed in all the number of 22. Knights, placing their Ladies Pictures according to their deserts. The next day came into the Listes young Henry of Burbon, very desirous to be reuenged, for the disgrace of the Lord Montgomery his cosin, yet also bringing with him the picture of a Damsell whom he somewhat loued: but his comming was more to winne honour on the Duke, then to obtaine his Mistrisses fauor. He bare in his Shield, Paris and the three Goddesses, but giuing the Apple to neither, with this motto, Cuique nescio, signifying therby the vnconstancie of his mind in loue. At the first course they brake their Launces to their hands, not so much as once mouing one the other: then taking

new

new Launces, they met againe ſo furiouſly, that Henrie had much to doe to keepe his ſaddle, and the Duke looſing one of his ſtirrups, and his raines of his bridle, paſt on likewiſe, and making an end of their carreare, Henry returned with his ſword in his hand, which the Duke perceiuing, drew forth his alſo, beginning betweene them a right fierce and dangerous conflict. But the Duke beeing better experienced fought with the greater aduantage, giuing Henry leaue a while to follow the rage of his furie, thereby the ſooner to weary himſelfe. Which indeede he did, when the Duke more fiercely then before aſſaulted him, cauſing him to ſeeke how to couer and defend himſelfe vnder his ſhield. At length, beeing wounded in many places, and hauing loſt very much blood, he fell from his horſe in a ſwound, to the great griefe of the King, & all the beholders, who greatly feared leaſt he had been ſlaine. But beeing conuayed out of the field, and his wounds bound vp, and ſtanched, hee was ſoone brought to himſelfe.

After him, the Duke ouercame twelue other Knights, not any of them beeing able to indure againſt him, ſo intollerable were his blowes: which the Engliſh Prince perceiuing, and grieuing to behold, the next day determined vnknowne to any one, to enter the Liſtes diſguiſed, where he did not doubt but hee would ſoone abate his pride, and reſoluing hereof, the next morning he armed himſelfe, and beeing mounted on a good horſe, his Armor ſeeming all ruſtie, and his ſheeld couered ouer with leather, painted with a Kite and an Eagle flying after a Doue, with this word, Not to obtaine, he entred the liſts, euen at ſuch time as the Duke had ouerthrowne an Enliſh Knight which put himſelfe againſt him.

CHAP. XIIII.

Howe Prince *Edward* ouercame the Duke, and afterwards continued in the Listes the rest of the time, ouercomming diuers Knights, and of his declaring his loue to *Emilia*.

THe Prince béeing entred as afore is declared, gaue cause of admiration vnto all beholders, as well by reason of his furniture, as also the deuice of his Shielde, yet was he by the King and diuers others much commended, for his cunning proportion, & gallant managing of his horse, the King saying vnto the Quéene & the Duke of Brittaine, that hee much feared, least that Knight would beare away all the honor frō the Duke, which in the two former daies he had wonne. But the Duke himselfe béeing puffed vp with the former victories, nothing at all estéemed him, and comming vnto him, demaunded for his Ladies picture, for whose fauour he was to vndertake the Combat.

The strange Knight replied, that her picture was inclosed in his hart, and trauailing through that Country, hearing of his Challenge, came purposely thether to try his fortune against him, not hauing the time to prouide any other portrature, then that which hee had already told him of. The Duke made aunswer, that then he could not combat against him, in regard that ouercōming him, hee should lose the guerdon of his Conquest. But yet séeing hée had such an earnest desire, he should in stéed of her picture, leaue behind him both his Ladies name, and his shield, to be placed at his disposition.

The Prince héereto willingly consented: and casting his eye to ỳ place where the Ladies were standing, after a little pause, sayd. Know then Sir Duke that the Ladie whom I so much loue and estéeme, and whose vertues and graces are so déeply fired in my hart, that naught but death can extinguish the same, is the most exquisite, & beautifull Princesse

teſſe Emilia héere preſent.

The Duke beeing no longer able to harken to his ſpéeches, being his coniuall: anſwered, no doubt but thy folly, hath ouercome thy braines, & rightly doth ỹ figure on thy ſhield ſignifie thy madneſſe, which is the ſelfe ſame kite there repreſented, which ſéeketh before the Eagle to obtaine the Doue: but thou ſhalt preſently féele, the reward of thy folly, if thou abide but the ſtroke of my Launce. Then turning about his horſe, not ſtaying for any farther reply, went to fetch his courſe, the other doing the like, and ſetting ſpurres to their horſes, placing their ſtaues in their reſts, they ran together furiouſly, & like two fierce rammes ſtriuing for ſuperiority, leauing a great diſtance betweene them, that with the more might, they may come together with their horned heads, ſo met theſe worthy Knights, cauſing their Launces to flie into the aire, being broken into a thouſand ſhéeuers, and méeting together with their bodies, cauſes their horſes to réele backwards, to the wounder of the beholders, but quickly recouering themſelues, they beganne to aſſault the one the other: ſéeking by all meanes, either, how moſt to indanger his aduerſarie, and to ſaue himſelfe: at length the Engliſh Prince lifting vp his ſword aloft, ſtarke the Duke directly on the vpper part of his ſhield ſo ſtrong a blow, that cleauing it into two péeces, his ſword paſſed forwards wounding him in the left thygh, but that blow was not long vnreuenged, for lifting vp his ſword with both hands, & raiſing himſelfe in his ſtirrups, gaue the Prince ſuch a blow on the head, that had he not taken it with his ſheild, that blow had ended the battaile: but neuertheleſſe, paſſing through both ſhield and Helme, he gaue him a ſmall hurt in the head, cauſing him halfe aſtonied to réele from ſide to ſide, but before he could deliuer another blow, the Prince had recouered himſelfe, and comming in more fiercely then before, ſtroke at his head, but by reaſon of the ſtarting of his horſe, the blow lighted on his ſhoulder, breaking the buckles and reuits of his pouldron, and ſliding downe, gaue his horſe ſuch a wound,

that

that being no longer able to containe his Maisters weight, fell to the ground, which the Duke perceauing, made the greater spéede to auoyd his Saddle, and cléering himselfe, recouered vpon his féete: which the Prince séeing, alighted also, then taking their swords and shields in hand, they beganne a most cruell and dangerous foote combat, to the amazement of all the beholders, who neuer had séene the like: for being both inraged with enuy and disdaine, like Lions méete, or Bulls, or Tigers, fierce prickt on with hungers rage, finding a pray, or booty to their minds, fall out and striue, and both with téeth, horne, and nayles, wound one the other, renting their entrailes, and dying themselues, and grasse with bloud, so stroue these two, and with their continued equall fight, their stéely Armor being not able to hold out the blowes, nor defend the thrusts, wherewith the one still wounded the other, no man being able to iudge, to which side the victorie would incline, euery one meruailing who the strange Knight should bee: at last the Duke beganne somewhat to shrinke backe, and to bare the remnant of his shield very low, which the Prince perceauing, séemed to increase his strength, and followed him more fiercely then before, driuing him from place to place, till at last comming before the window where Emilia stode, the Prince casting vp his sight towards her, imediatly stod as one in a traunce, which the other perceauing, beganne againe to gather courage, and gaue him two or thrée mighty blowes, telling him that hee would bring him out of his dumpes. Tis true replied the Prince, being halfe ashamed at his folly, but to your paine. Then plucking vp himselfe, they renewed their battaile, which séemed like to the burning of some hidden flare: hauing a while escapt the extremitie of the fire, which had before consumed great woods & trées, and séeming to be extinguisht, presently renewes a flame againe, and so goes out. Such was their latter strife, for the Prince being rowsed from his slumber, persued him with so many waighty blowes, that the Duke being no longer able to hold out, fell to the

ground,

ground in a traunce: which the Iudges perceiuing, came ſpéedily vnto them, fearing leaſt the ſtrange Knight would haue proffered him farther violence, but he, putting vp his ſword, demaunded whether there was ought elſe to bee done. The County Palatine aunſwered, nothing but to defend the place as the Duke had before. Then the Duke was conuaied away, and being vnarmed, was dreſſed by the Surgians, which found no dangerous wound, but that his great loſſe of bloud, cauſed him to bee extreame weake and faintie. The Duke beeing conayed away, the King was very deſirous to know who the ſtrange Knight ſhould bee, and being about to ſend one vnto him, to that end. The Prince preſented himſelfe before him, and pulling of his Helme, deſired his Maieſtie to grant him leaue to continue the Dukes challendge: when the King beheld him, and ſaw that it was the Prince, who had ſubdued ý Duke, his griefe for his hurts, and ouerthrow was ſomewhat eaſed. Then ſpeaking to the Prince, hee ſayd, my Lord I did not thinke you would haue thus delt with vs, as vnknowne, thus to haue put vs into ſuch griefe, as you haue done by the wounding, and vanquiſhing of the Duke our Coſin: yet ſeeing it was his owne folly in making the challendge, it doth the leſſe grieue vs. But for your requeſt in continuance thereof: I would wiſh you rather, to giue it ouer then to indanger your ſelfe therein, but if ſo be you are ſo minded, we freely grant you leaue, praying to God ſend you better hap, then the Duke hath had before you. The Prince humbly thanked his Maieſtie: and then turning to the Princeſſe Emilia, intreated her likewiſe to graunt him leaue, as her father had done to defend her beautie, ſeeing that it was his hap to obtaine the ſame by his good Fortune. The Princeſſe being before hand a little touched with his loue, and now ſeeing the paines and danger, which he vndertake for her ſake, was altogether ouercome: wherefore dying her cheekes with a maidenly bluſh, ſhe told him the paines which he already tooke, and that he would againe indure for her ſake, was vnknowne

her: yet because she would not proue discurtious, nor ingratefull, seeing the King her father had thereto consented, she was content to accept him for her Knight, and to alow of that which he requested. The Prince herewith beeing meruailous contented, returned her harty thankes, and so departed againe to the Tent, where hee was met by the Spanish Prince, the Duke of Yorke, and Sir Henault, and many others: and was by them disarmed, and after dinner, his wounds being bound vp, hee armed himselfe againe in a most costly Armor, set all with true loue knots, wrought of pure gold, and beeing attended by the foresayd Lords, he entred the Lists: where hee had not long remained before such time, that there came a Knight of the Kingdome of Naples: a man in those parts famoused for his valor and hardinesse, and being inamored on a young Damsell of that Country, promised her to come into France, whereby his valor, hee would cause her to bee for euer famoused: but his hap was so hard that at the first encounter, he was sent to measure his length in the ground, not being able to combat. After him that day, and the nert day, he vnhorsed to ỹ number of 40 Knights: the last day there came very fewe to try themselues, the most part hauing in the fiue former daies, beene by the Duke foyled, by meanes whereof he past away the time in companie of the Spanish Prince, and other great Lords, vntill it was almost Sun set, at which time there entred an ill fauoured withered face fellow, something heigher then three horse loaues, by birth a pagan, but brought vp by the Queene of Portugall, as her Dwarfe, this proper apiesquire falling in loue with a Damsell, almost as hansome as himselfe, being likewise attending on the Queene, and hauing obtained her good liking on that condition, that he should in all places maintaine her beauty: desired the Queene that hee might be made Knight, assuring her that he would so behaue himselfe, that shee and all others should thinke the order well bestowed vpon him. The Queene seeing his earnestnesse yelded vnto him, and caused him to be Knighted, who no

sooner

ſooner hauing receaued the order, and hearing of the Duke of Orleance challendge, but he determined to fight againſt him, and cauſe him to confeſſe his peate, to more beautiful then Emilia. Continuing in this imagination, he cauſed her Picture to be drawne, and therewith came vnto Parris, entring the Liſts at ſuch time, as the Prince with the other Lords were ready to depart, and comming vnto the Spaniſh Prince, demaunded which was he that had ouercome the Duke. The Prince meruailing to ſee ſuch a gallant in that equipage, demaunded what he would with him, marry quoth the Dwarfe fight with him, and cauſe him to confeſſe, that the Damſell which I loue, doth excell in beauty all others: the Prince ſmilling, hauing much adoe to containe himſelfe from laughter, demaunded who was his Lady, and where her Picture was. Hee aunſwered ſhe was attending on the Quæne of Portugall, and therewith drew foorth her Picture, at ſight whereof euery one burſt foorth in a great laughter. The Dwarfe being heerewith angry, aſked the Prince whether it were he or no that he had inquired for, the Prince aunſwered no, but ſhowed him the Engliſh Prince, withall telling him that the time was paſt, whereby hee had loſt his labor, vnleſſe hee could intreate him to Juſt willingly.

Then the Dwarfe comming vnto him, intreated him if the time were paſt, that yet in courtiſie he would breake a Launce with him: he ſmilling aunſwered, that betwæne that and Sunne ſet, hee was bound to Juſt with any that ſhould come, wherefore he was contented. Then taking each of them a Launce, they ranne together: the Prince miſſing his courſe of purpoſe, but the Dwarfe with much adoe brake his Launce, almoſt diſmounting himſelfe with his owne ſtroke. The King, & Quæne, withall the Lords and Ladies, laughed hartily hereat: the Dutches of Burbone telling Emilia, that now her Knight was like to looſe all his former honor.

The Dwarfe had no ſooner broken his Launce, but preſently he drew foorth his ſword, but ỳ Prince intreated him,

to runne one course more, which he easily yéelded vnto, then taking a new speare, they ranne againe: the Prince taking him in the midst of his Shield, bare him out of his saddle a whole speares length, not béeing able to rise from ỹ ground. Then was sent vnto him by the King, the young Prince Phillip his sonne, to intreate him to come to the Pallace; whether he went, béeing accompanied with diuers great Lords and Knights, and was very roially receiued by the King, the Quéene, and their fayre daughter, and feasted with many sumptuous and rare sorts of viands, after supper, they fell againe to theyr wonted sports of dauncing and masking: where the English Prince againe made his loue knowne vnto Emilia, assuring her, that vnlesse shée pitties his estate, he was but dead, for without her, he was but as a shadow without substance, or as a body without a soule. The Princesse, who by this time was as much scorched with the flame as hee, and did féele as great force of loue, knew not well what to aunswere, but at last yéelding to loue, she told him, that if he loued her as hee made shew of, shée had no reason but to requite him with the like, but as yet shée was young, and at her Parents disposition, without whose consent she could not make her owne choyse, but if he could obtaine her Fathers consent, shee was likewise contented to accept of him as her Lord and husband.

Héere will we leaue of to speake of these Louers, and returne a little to speake of the Gentleman of the Forrest, and his education.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

How the young Princes of *Denmarke*, and *Saxonie*, beeing brought vp together, were ſo like, that they could ſcarce be knowne one from the other, & of theyr mutuall loue.

YOV remember how the Duke of Saxony bringing with him the young Prince of Denmarke into his Dutchie, cauſed him to be brought vp with his own ſonne, calling him by the name of the Gentleman of the Forreſt, becauſe they knew no other name that he had. The Dutches, partly by the commandement of her huſband, & partly for the beautie ſhee beheld in him, made great account of him, vſing to play and daudle with him, as much as with her owne ſonne: by meanes whereof, in ſhort time he beganne to recouer a freſh and liuely colour, and ſtill the elder they grew, the more like the children ſeemed the one to the other: and as in likenes, ſo alſo grew they in loue one to the other, delighting alwaies to be together. And beeing but children, if any one had hapned to wrong either of them, the other would alwaies helpe to be reuenged, which bred in the Duke and Dutches, ſo great content as might be. But comming to the age of 7. yeeres, they were inſtructed in the Latine and Greeke tongues, by a Tutor whō the Duke had appointed them for their bringing vp. Hee beeing a very wiſe and diſcreet Knight, who in former time had ſpent his youthfull dayes in traueling ſtrange Countries, and ſeeking after aduentures, as was the vſage of Knights arrant: hee hauing as before is ſaid, the charge of education of the two Princes committed vnto him, inſtructed them ſo well, that in ſhort time they profited very much in thoſe languages, eſpecially the Gentleman of the Forreſt, as beeing of a more quick and readie wit, but otherwiſe, theyr diſpoſitions, & conſtitutions both of mind and body were ſo like, that the Duke was forced to ſet marks whereby to know them: and theyr loue in like

manner was so great, that had the one bene sicke or ill at ease, the other seemed to be a partner in his griefe: if the one laughed, the other was ioyfull, if the one wept, the other must needes mourne to bare him company, such a simpathy of loue had Nature infused in them, that it was almost impossible for the one to liue without the others company.

And comming to the age of twelue yeares, they were instructed by their Tutor, to ride and manage horses, wherin they so much profited, that in short time they wered very skilfull, especially the Gentleman of the Forrest, who both in aptnes of mind, and agilitie of body, passed the most exquisite of his time: which caused the Duke so much ỹ more to loue and esteeme of him, hoping that in time, God would manifest from whence, and of what parentage he was discended, imagining as well by his beauty, as also by his rare forwardnes, ỹ he must needes be issued of noble blood. The Dutches likewise grew into so great a liking of him, for his diuers rare and singuler vertues, ỹ she many times deuised with herselfe, how and by what meanes she might cause him to loue her daughter, whom hee esteemed as his Sister, a Lady for beauty excellent, and for the perfections of the mind, able to compare with any then liuing. Shee I say, bering of this mind, oftentimes resolued to motion the matter vnto him, and to discouer vnto him the manner of his finding, which vnto him was vnknowne, by reason he was alwaies held and accounted as their naturall Childe: yet thinking that course might be a meanes, whē he should come to age, for to forsake their Court, to seeke for his true Parents, shee gaue ouer that determination, minding to conferre with the Duke her husband thereof. And finding him one night very merry, and pleasantly discoursing, and commending of both the young Princes vnto her, shee declared vnto him her mind, and affirmed, that in her conscience, there could be no better match for her daughter, seeing his vertuous behauiour, which was more to be esteemed then any riches whatsoeuer. The Duke did not greatlie

dislike

diſlike hereof, but yet thought it fitter to bee left alone, vntill ſuch time as both of them ſhould attaine to a more riper yeares, for as then he was but 12 yeares old, and ſhee nine yeares old. Here againe will we leaue them, to ſpeake of the Lord Gwaltero, and his companie: who after they departed from the Ladies Caſtle, toke their waies towards the confines of Germanie.

CHAP. XVI.

How the Lord *Gwaltero*, trauelling through *Germanie*, arriued in the Citty of *Viena* in *Auſtria*: where hee vndertooke the defence of a diſtreſſed Lady, wrongfully accuſed.

THe Lord Gwaltero, departing from the Ladies Caſtle whom he had reſcued, at time ſuch as he parted from the Lord of Menew, and Sir Henault, being accompanied with Sir Cadrus, Sir Brewes, and his Squire: rode on a long time without finding any aduenture worth the remembrance, euer inquiring after Sir Henault, and the Lord of Menew, with the reſt of their companie. At length paſſing through many Townes of Germanie, they arriued in a Citty of the Dukedome of Auſtria, called Viena: bordering almoſt on the confines of Hungaria, being as then the chiefe Citty of that prouince, and as then vnder the gouernance of a moſt ſtirne and rigorous Prince, named Duke Otho. Who for his tiranous cruelty, was greatly feared of all his neighbour Potentates, and ſcarcely beloued of his owne naturall Subiects: hee was a man for valor, and hardineſſe greatly eſteemed, and had not his outragious crueltie, and beaſtly ſenſuallity ſtayned his Vertues, hee might well haue beene compared with any Prince, then liuing within the confines of Chriſtendome: but rage and ſenſuall appetites doth commonly ſo abound, eſpecially in the harts of great men, whom God hath giuen ouer to themſelues,

themselues, that vertue is altogether choked, and swallowed vp in vice, as might well appeare in this Duke Otho. Who (so he might haue) cared not by what meanes he came by it: as by the sequell of this Chapter, you shall more plainly vnderstand.

This Duke had within his territories, a most gracious and vertuous Ladie, being sole heyre vnto her father, who was a man of large possessions, and greatly beloued in his Country, for his vertuous and vpright dealings to euery man. This noble Gentleman dying, and leauing his daughter about the age of 15 or 16 yeares, was sought vnto of many great and mighty Lords: some for her lands and liuings, others for her beauty and vertues, and diuers for both. But to make short this discourse, shee was at last wooed, and wonne by a Knight of that Country, called Hostinius: a man who for his vertues and valor in Chiualry, might be thought equal with any Knight in Austria, and being married vnto the young Lady Vitella, they so well loued and liked together, that they scarce one euer gaue cause of dislike to the other, which caused them to bee commended, and praised through all the Dukedome, and the confines there abouts: but this ioy and content, had not continued fully the space of three yeares, before that froward Fortune enuying their blessed state, caused her fame to be resounded in ỹ eares of the Duke Otho. Whose lustfull hart beeing set on fire with report of her beauty, caused both her and her husband to be sent for to his Court, where beeing arriued, hee at the first most kindly receaued them, and as the old prouerbe is, made much of the childe for the Nurses sake: so hee intertained Hostinius, vsing him with all the familiarity that might bee for his wifes sake, alwaies seeking opportunity, to make knowne his lustfull loue vnto Vitella. And one day finding her standing at a window, looking into the Pallace garden: hee came vnto her, and after a little idle prattle, fetching a deepe fained sigh, he declared vnto her his loue, vowing and protesting, vnlesse she tooke pitty on him, and yeeld to his desire,

ſire, there was no way but death with him, alleaging that as her beauty had wounded him, ſo was it her part to releeue and comfort him againe, declaring that as by nature ſhe was faire, ſo likewiſe ought ſhe to bee kind & mercifull.

The good Lady being halfe in a maze with this vnlooked for proces, and ſcarce knowing how to aunſwer him, conſidering his nature to be ſuch, that an abſolute deniall might cauſe him to grow into choller, both with her and her huſband, and therby to worke both their confuſions. And likewiſe to feede him on with fained ſpeeches of loue, might bring her name in queſtion of ſlaunder, & though for a time by that meanes ſhe might put him off, yet in the end, ſeeing himſelfe deluded, he would reuenge himſelfe with the greater crueltie, determined therefore of two euils to chuſe the leaſt: wherefore ſhe replyed in this manner.

My gracious Lorde, I doe not thinke that you will ſo much diſhonour your ſelfe, as by forcing of mee to violate the holy rites of marriage, and to wrong my Lord and huſband in that ſort, as by your ſpeeches you pretend, which if you goe about to performe, know for certainty, that God who created all things of nought, will ſeuerely puniſh and reuenge ſo great a crime: and likewiſe aſſure your ſelfe my Lord, that whilſt I haue power and ſtrength to reſiſt, you ſhall neuer obtaine the ſame, wherefore I would wiſh your honor to giue ouer all ſuch wicked imaginations. And herewith ſhe flung away frō him in a great chafe, leauing him muſing on her ſhort aunſwer, and deuiſing which way hee might bring his will to paſſe, at laſt reſolued with himſelfe, that there was no way to accompliſh the ſame, but onely by the death of her huſband, hoping that hee being dead, ſhee might be brought to any thing. And being thus reſolued, he went downe into the great Hall, where finding diuers of Hoſtinius ſeruaunts, hee made choice of one, whom he ſaw continually moſt neere vnto him: and taking him a ſide, declared vnto him his intent, and at laſt, with large promiſes wonne him, both to conſent, and alſo to be the

Actor of his Lords tragedie, which in this sort was acted. About some three nights after their agreement, Estonio, for so was that false seruaunt named, hauing gotten a sleeping powder, so cunningly cõuayde it into the wine which both his Lord and Lady dranke of, with some of the rest of their nearest attendants, that being layd in their bedds, none of them awaked till the morning. In the meane time, euen about midnight, when both by nature, and effect of theyr drench, they were soundest asleepe, then entred the damnable Traytor, and draue into his Lords head a naile, which he had no sooner performed, but hiding the hammer wherwith he had committed that cruell homicide, vnder the bed, he departed to his owne bed, where he remained vntill the next day, that all the rest of his fellowes, were risen, and the Chamberlaine, as was his custome, came, and softly knocked at his Lords chamber-dore, wherewith the Lady awaked, and turning about, shee found her Lord and husband as cold as Ice, which strake such a terror in her hart, that fetching a great shreeke, she likewise fell into a traunce. Her damsels which attended her, hearing the shreeke, fearing shee was not well, entred the Chamber, where they found their Lord dead, and theyr Lady in little better case, but at length, hauing recouered life in her, they called in the Gentlemen his attendants, who being entred, it is vnpossible to describe the sorrow and lamentation which was made, where Estonio, in outward shewe, seemed not to be least sorrowfull, so well knew he how to dissemble the matter. At last, the rumor heereof came to the eares of Duke Otho, who presently like a man inraged with griefe, hee came posting to the Chamber, where at his first entrance, to make shew of the loue which hee bare to the dead bodie being liuing, hee rent his hayre, beating his breast, protesting that he would haue giuen halfe his dukedome, to haue him aliue againe, although (GOD knowes) he himselfe was the onely cause of his death. The good Lady, shee in the meane time swounded, and reswounded, and had it not beene for the damsels, without all doubt shee would haue

borne

borne her huſband company amongſt the dead, ſæing ſhee was depriued of him amongſt the liuing: ſo extreame was the græfe which ſhe felt, & ſo great the loue which ſhee bare him.

The Duke in the meane time, for the better obtayning of his purpoſe, cauſed ẏ dead body to be imbaulmed, ſaying he would haue him buried with the greateſt ſolemnity that might be, as the man whom he moſt loued: and becauſe it was impoſſible to be performed ſo ſuddenly, he would haue him kæpt vnburied, by the ſpace of a month, againſt which time he warned all the chæfe of his Subiects to be there. Hoping in ẏ meane time by one meanes or other, to worke Vitella to his will, wherefore euery day he would come to viſite her: many times declaring his paſſions vnto her, deſiring her to conſent and yæld thereto. But ſhe good Lady, not minding ſo ſoone to forget him whom ſhe loued ſo dærely, neither yet to make choiſe of one whom for his wicked life, ſhe could not chuſe but hate: and alſo, by his important ſute, imagining that to gaine her, he might by ſome kinde of poyſon, haue made away her huſband, ſæing that ſo ſuddenly he died: gaue him this aunſwere.

My Lord, I know not the cauſe of this your importunate ſute, neither can I thinke but that it proceeds from a vild and ſinfull minde, that profeſſing ſo great loue as you did to my late Lord and huſband, you would tempt me his wofull wife ſo ſoone to forget him, and commit ſo vile an offence before God: wherefore know for a certainty, that I neither can, nor will cõſent to loue him, whom my minde perſwads me to bee ẏ deſtroyer of my late deceaſed Lord & huſband: for without you had therein bæne guiltfull, you would not haue perſiſted in this your wicked perſute after my honeſty.

The Duke knowing himſelfe guilty, in that wherewith ſhe had accuſed him, & alſo growing into choller with her rude denial, briefly replied. Lady I perceaue that, that which cannot be obtained by faire meanes, muſt now at length be wonne by foule: and ſæing that you wil not wil-

lingly consent vnto the thing, which in kind and milde sort I haue intreated of you, know for a certainty, that I will winne it by force: & whereas you accuse me of murdering of thy vnfortunate husband, assure thy selfe that the guilte thereof, shall lighten on thy owne head: which I my selfe will iustifie against thee. And thus saying, he departed her chamber, changing all his former loue into cruell hate, alwaies ponduring in his minde reuenge, till such time, as his Nobles being come together, for the solemnizing of the funerals, at which time (comming as if hee would haue viewed the dead corpes) with some of his nobillity, laying his hand on his head, on a sudden he seemed to feele ỹ nayle: when fetching a deepe sigh, hee cryed out, that his deere friend Hollinius had beene slaine by treachery. The nobles beholding this sudden accident, came and beheld the same, euery one imediatly iudging, that by that wound he receaued his death. The Duke aboue all others seemed most to wounder hereat, and at length turning to the company, sayd, that he hoped to find out the murtherers, seeing God so strangely had giuen knowledge of the deede, which vntill now was not so much as once dreampt of.

Wherefore presently causing Vitella, with all her Damsells and attendants to be atached, he examined them euery one, and comming to Estonio, whom hee before had instructed, examined him in such sort, that he declared how that the Lady Vitilla, had many times made proffer of her loue vnto him, and that he as often had denied her, because he would not wronge his Lord and Maister: how that she had proffered him, both to murder her husband, and afterwards to marry with him, if he thereunto would giue his consent: still clearing himselfe as much as it was possible. This confession being vttered, shee poore distressed Lady was forthwith condemned, not being suffered so much as once to speake for her selfe, Estonio was likewise committed to prison: there for to remaine a while to bleere ỹ peoples eyes, who could hardly beliue that, which hee had iustified.

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The ſame day the Duke proceéded in iudgement, againſt Vitella, where he iudged her for her fault, to loſe all her lands, which he imediatly ſeaſed on, and that except within ſixe months, ſhe could find a Knight ỳ ſhould maintaine her cauſe, againſt ỳ Duke in ſingle combat: for he as a déere friend vnto her deaſed huſband, would be the man that would proue that ſhe had comitted treaſon, and murder againſt him, with theſe conditions, that if he were vanquiſhed, that then ſhe ſhould be deliuered frée, and all her lands and goods reſtored vnto her, but if it hapned that he remained Victor, that both ſhee and the weake Knight, which ſhould put himſelfe in her defence, ſhould be burned a liue at one ſtake, which he cauſed for the ſame purpoſe to be ſet vp in the midſt of the Market place.

This ſentence pronounced, ſhe good Lady was commited vnder ſafe kéeping: no body but ſuch whom the Duke appointed, being ſuffered to come vnto her. Which cauſed many to iudge the Duke rather to be guilty then ſhe, eſpecially ſuch who had knowne the great loue betweéne her, and her deceaſed huſband: conſidering alſo, that onely by this meanes he had gotten her inheritance into his hands, which was the chiefeſt marke he aimed at.

Now to returne againe to our purpoſe, the Lord Gwaltero and his company, comming as before wee haue ſaid into Viena, hapned to take vp his lodging in a kinſmans houſe of the Lady Vitellas, who (by reaſon of her miſhap) was very ſad & penſiue: and béeing ſitting at ſupper, was demaunded the cauſe of his ſorrow by the Lord Gwaltero, vnto whom hee declared the former diſcourſe, with the loue of the Duke vnto Vitella, which he had likewiſe learned of her, not forgetting in any one poynt, to declare the cõmon wickedneſſe of the Duke, therby the eaſier to perſwade his crime likewiſe in this.

Gwaltero hauing attentiuely liſtned vnto this diſcourſe, meruailed greatly at the ſtrange tyranny of the Duke, and béeing halfe reſolued of the Ladies innocencie, determined with himſelfe, to put himſelfe in her defence, wherefore de-

maunding how hee might come to speake with the Ladie, and also, how nere the time appointed for her execution was expired, (for that he was loth to tarry ouer-long in any place, because of his returne vnto his Lady & Mistrisse) his Host replied, that the time of her death was now within fiue dayes, and that as yet shee was not prouided of any Champion, because ỳ Duke was a strong puissant knight, and the condition of the combat such, that euery one feared to entermedle therein: and as touching the meanes to speake with her, if he would vouchsafe to take the paynes, he would (supper being ended) conduct him to the place, where hee should from her owne mouth, heare what shee would say to cleere herselfe. Gwaltero being by nature pittifull, and also by oath of Knight-hood bound to helpe, and succour those that were distressed, consented to goe with him to the prison. Where being come, and brought into the presence of Vitella, her Cosin declared the cause of their comming, who after thanks to them giuen, and lifting vp both her eyes and hands towards heauen, protesting her innocencie, she declared as much as she knew touching the same, vtterly denying any loue towards Estinio, or any other, saue onely her Lord Hostinius. Gwaltero being fully resolued of her innocencie, demaunded if she would put her case into his hands, who would for her deliuery aduenture his life, and no doubt but her cause being iust, God would prosper their quarrell. Shee humbly thanking him, answered, that seeing he so curteously offered himselfe, to him and God onely she committed her case: desiring, that according to her innocencie he might speed therein, and no otherwise. Then taking their leaue, till the day came he departed, leauing her somewhat comforted with hope of her Knights good successe, and equitie of her cause.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

How *Gwaltero* combatted with the Duke, and ſlew him, & of the kind proffers that were made him by *Vitella* & the Nobility, with his departure thence.

THE day béeing come, wherin the Lady Vitella was either to bring foorth her Champion, or elſe to commit her body to the fire, the Duke béeing royallie accompaned, entred the Liſts, cauſing her in continent to be ſent for, and béeing come, demaunded for her Champion, ſhée aunſwered, that God had prouided her one, who at ỹ ſound of the trumpet would likéwiſe appeare. The Duke hearing that ſhée was prouided of a Knight, wondred what he ſhould be, and béeing prickt in conſcience with the guilt of his fault, grew halfe into diſpaire, and would willinglie (if it might haue bén with his honour) haue deſiſted from the Combat. But God who hardned the hart of Pharao, likewiſe hardned his, thereby the more euidently to make knowne vnto the world, his mercy and louing kindnes, towards them that feare him, and his iuſtice on them, which againſt their owne conſciences commit ſinne and iniquitie. So that cauſing firſt the Lady to be conuayed towards the ſtake, the trumpets were ſounded, but no Knight was ſéen to approch, which cauſed him to grow more proude and inſolent, thinking then, that no man dared to combat againſt him. But at the ſecond warning the Lord Gwaltero appeared, mounted on a mighty Courſer, with his Launce on his thigh, and his Helmet on: in this ſort came hee before the Iudges, and lifting vp his beuer, made a little ſhew of reuerence, then proceéding on with his ſpéech, he ſaid, that béeing accepted of Vitella as her Knight, hee was come to defend her innocencie: and that he marueiled, that they being appointed Iudges of the fielde, would contrary to all reaſon, ſend her towards the place of execution, before the Combat were ended: then deſiring that ſhe might again be

ſent

sent for, he held his peace: which they foorthwith caused to be done, placing her whereas she might behold the issue of the battell. In the meane time, the Duke comming vnto Gwaltero, demaunded what, and of whence hee was, who aunswered, that he was a Knight arrant, of the kingdome of Denmarke, and passing through his Country, had heard of his cruelty shewed vnto the distressed Lady, and being moued with pitty, was come to vndertake her defence, which he hoped so well to performe, as before night to cause him confesse his treason against her. The Duke raging hereat, replied, that doubtlesse he was some one of her Minions, that being weary of his life, was come for company to be burnt with her, which should be performed with all the torments that might be.

Now by this time Vitella being brought backe and placed, the Iudges caused both Knights to be sworne, then being warned by a Herault euery one to doe his best, they set spurres to their horses, and incountred so rudely, that the Duke was throwne out of his saddle, being wounded a little vnder the right breast, and sore bruised with the fall, Gwaltero was not wounded at all, but yet by reason of the mightinesse of the encounter, his horseback brake vnder him, wherefore he was in like sort driuen to alight, and being both on foote, they began a cruell and fierce fight, cleauing their shields, and helwing their armor in peces, so that euery blow caused the blood to trickle downe, dying the greene grasse into a scarlet hue. Thus continued the fight a long time very vncertaine, no man knowing to whō victory would incline: some-whiles the one tryumphing in the others losse, and by and by againe, the other reioycing to see his enemy stoope. Thus continued they the space of three houres, the beholders meruailing they could indure so long: at length standing to breathe themselues, the Duke spake vnto him, saying, Knight, thou seest that as yet I haue the aduantage, but the great vailour which I haue found in thee, makes me to pitty thy estate, wherefore I am contented to remit thee the Combat, conditionally that ỹ wilt

remaine

remaine with mee, and alſo I will giue vnto thée halfe of her lands whom thou defendeſt. Nay, nay, replied Gwaltero, I ſcorne thy proffers, but if thou wilt reſtore the Lady and her goods, and confeſſe héere before this company, thy treaſon committed againſt her, I will grant thee thy life: otherwiſe looke for no mercy at my hands. Then taking theyr ſwords in their hands, and couering themſelues with the remnants of their ſhields, they fell againe to their former conflict, which cõtinued not long before that Gwaltero deliuered a mighty blowe on his head, which cleft his Helme in two, and wounded him ſo ſore that hee fell to the ground, which Gwaltero ſéeing, ſtept vnto him, and would haue ſlaine him out-right, had not he intreated mercy, promiſing to confeſſe the whole circumſtance of the treaſon.

Then the Iudges cõming vnto him, hee confeſt firſt his loue to Vitella, then the murder of Hoſtinius, and laſtly his hate towards her for refuſing him, from whence grew this manner of reuenge which he intended.

No ſoner had he made his confeſſion, but turning about his face he immediatly dyed. Then the Iudges cauſed his body to be carried away, to the intent to haue him interred, but they were ſaued of that labour, for a flock of Wolues comming from out of the woods there adioyning, deuoured his accurſed carkaſſe, to the great admiration of all the beholders. Then immediatly was Vitella brought downe, and greatly honored, and Eſtonio being apprehended, was burned in the fire prepared for his Lady. Gwaltero béeing conducted to his lodging by the Nobility and Vitella, was by them vnarmed, & his wounds very carefully looked vnto, where hee remained the ſpace of eyght weékes, during which time hee had many great proffers made him by Vitella, as the inioying both of herſelfe, & all her inheritance, and by the Nobilitie hee was proffered to be accepted as theyr ſouereigne Prince and Duke, if ſo be hee would accept of Vitella to be his wife. But hee who had ſetled his minde in another place, gaue thẽ all harty thanks for theyr good wills towards him, excuſing himſelfe as well as hee

might, and desiring them to bestowe it on some one more worthy then himselfe, with whom Vitella might be coupled in marriage. Thus excusing himselfe from receiuing that which most men would haue coueted, hee remained there till his woũds were throughly whole, then taking his leaue of Vitella and the rest, he departed towards the confines of Belgica, hauing receiued of Vitella both horse and Armor, for a remembrance of her, in stæd of his owne, which in the battell against the Duke was broken and spoyled.

CHAP. XVIII.

How *Gwaltero* passing through *Belgica*, arriued in *Holland*, and comming to the Castle of *Cornew*, was taken prisoner.

THus being departed from Viena, hee was accompanied by diuers of the Nobilitie, till such time as passing the bounds of Austria, hee directed his iourny towardes Flaunders: at which time the Austrians commending him to God, and desiring him at his returne to come that way, they departed againe towards Viena, by whom Gwaltero commended to Vitella. In this sort being departed, hee rode onwards towards Flaunders, disguising himselfe, because he would not be knowne in that Country, where he was beloued of many: at last comming to the Citty of Gaunt, he found it still defended, and kept vnder the Subiection of the Danes, there likewise he heard of the custome of the Castle of Coruew, in the Duchie of Holland, made by the Duke Griffory. Which was (that whosoeuer would enter ẏ sayd Castle) must first alone Just with the fiue Knights, who kept the foote of the bridge, one after another, and if it were his hap to ouercome them all, then was he to Just also with the other fiue: first with two at once, then against the other thræ, but and if it were his fortune likewise to banquish them, then was hæ to fight with the other 40, by fiue, & by fiue,

ſiue, ſo that it was impoſſible for one man to vanquiſh them all. But if it ſo hapned that the ſtraunge Knight, were by them ouercome, then to loſe both his horſe and Armor, and ſo to depart: vnleſſe it were ſuch a one whom they knew to be their enemy, and then was he ſure to be impriſoned. This cuſtome he rayſed, becauſe thereby he hoped to impriſon as many of the Danske Knights, as ſhould paſſe that way in ſearch of their King.

Gwaltero hearing of this cuſtome, and being deſirous to ſée the ſtrength and ſituation of the place (ſo much ſpoken of, together, imagining that peraduenture their King might be there impriſoned, as indéede he was) minded to goe ſée the ſame, and then if his minde ſerued him, to make triall of the aduenture. Thus being reſolued, he ſecretly departed Gaunt, accompanied only with his Squire, leauing behind him both Sir Brewes and Cadrus, not knowing what was become of him: in this ſort he ſhaped his courſe the nert way thetherwards, where the tenth day after he arriued, about nine of the clocke in the morning: and comming to a ſhield that hunge on a Trée thereby, ſtrake the ſame ſo hard, that the whole Caſtle reſounded thereof. Then came forth the firſt fiue Knights, one of them demaunding what he ſought: Gwaltero told him he would very willingly enter the Caſtle, to behold whether it were ſo faire within, as it ſhowed beautiful without. Yea replied the Knight, but firſt you muſt according to our cuſtome Juſt with me, and my fellowes, whom except you ouercome, you are not like to gaine entrance: I haue heard (replied he) if I be not deceaued, your cuſtome, which maketh me ſomething the more deſirous to enter, in regard I thinke that a place ſo fenced & defended without, cannot chuſe but haue things worth the beholding within: wherefore I am contented to make triall of my fortune, by the ſtrength of my arme. Then couching their Launces, they two ranne together ſo fiercely, that the Knight of the Caſtle was tumbled headlong ouer his horſe taile, not being able to riſe againe, by reaſon of the weight of his Armor, which ſo ſore bruſed him

in his fall. Then ranne another of the Knights, but for haſt miſſed his courſe: but Gwaltero beeing more circomſpect, in hauing a great deale of worke to doe, met him ſo rightly, that his Launce paſſed through his body aboue a yard, cauſing him to fall dead to the ground: then his Squire brought him the Launce of the dead Knight, with which he met the third ſo ſoundly, that he ſent both horſe and man to the ground, wherehence he was not able to ariſe in haſt, by reaſon that both his feete were ſo faſtned in his ſtirrups, ỹ hee could not cleere himſelfe, but lay ſtill vnder his horſe, which ſtriuing to get vp, had almoſt ſquſed out his Maiſters breath. The fourth whoſe turne was next to runne, knew not well what to do, for willingly he would haue deſiſted frõ that carrere, but being aſhamed to ſhow himſelfe ſo cowardly: he likewiſe ſet ſpurres to his horſe, but in ỹ encounter was ſent to beare his fellowes companie. The fift had ſomewhat better lucke then ỹ reſt, for at the firſt courſe he was not not diſmounted, by reaſon Gwalteros horſe being wearied with his former trauell, euen as they came to meet, ſtumbled vnder him, whereby he miſt his courſe, the other breaking his ſpeare in the midſt of his ſhield, paſt on without doing any farther hurt: then taking a new Launce they ranne againe, where the ſecond time Gwaltero met him ſo directly, that caſting him out of his Saddle backwards, hee pitched on the ground with his head forwards, falling ſo heauie that hee brake his necke withall. Thẽ Gwaltero alighting, made choiſe of ỹ beſt of their horſes, & mounting thereon came to the bridge foote, where hée found great ſtore of Launces, & making choiſe of ỹ beſt, he deliuered a couple vnto his Squire, to kéepe for him if occaſion ſerued. Now by this time were two of the other fiue on horſe-backe, prouiding themſelues for the Iuſt: and all the reſt of the Knights of the Caſtle, were gathered together on the battlements, to behold the iſſue of the battaile: arming themſelues likewiſe, who ſhould be the next fiue. Thus the two Knights being mounted and furniſhed at all points, cried vnto Gwaltero to defend himſelfe: then placing their Launces in their reſts, and ſetting ſpurres to

their

their horſes, they ranne together with all their force, breaking their ſtaues in the midſt of his ſhield, with ſuch might, that they cauſed his horſe to ſtagger backwards, hauing much adoe to recouer himſelfe from falling, but he himſelfe ſeemed to moue no more, thē if they had runne againſt ſome huge Oke, but his ſtroke was not to ſo ſmall purpoſe, for charging his Launce againſt him on his right ſide, gaue him ſuch a ſound blow, that piercing both his ſhield and armor, the ſpeares head entred cleane through his hart, cauſing him to fall as dead as a dogge to the ground. Then turning about (their courſe beeing ended) demaunded whether hee muſt iuſt with the other Knight againe, and they anſwered yes: then calling to his Squire to bring him another launce, they ranne againe, where the other Knight was forced to meaſure his length on the ground, bearing his ſaddle betweene his legges.

Then againe changing his horſe, hee prouided himſelfe againſt the other three, who beeing all mounted on verie good horſes, charged him at once, two of them breaking they' ſtaues on his ſhield, and the other milling his courſe, was ſent headlong to the ground for beeing ouer haſtie.

Gwaltero beeing ſore ſhaken with that incounter, could haue beene contented to haue giuen ouer running for that time, but yet beeing compelled to it by reaſon of the cuſtome, toke a freſh Launce in hand, and there with met one of them ſo right, that for euer after he made him ſure enough for running. The other perceiuing his fellowes to be ſlaine, and that no force was able to preuaile againſt him, determined at the next courſe to kill his horſe vnder him, hoping thereby to ſaue himſelfe from the ſtroke of his Launce: and beeing thus reſolued, ranne againe, directing the poynt of his Launce full againſt Gwalteros horſe breſt, where entring, he ſlew the horſe, but eſcaped not himſelfe ſo well as he hoped for, by reaſon that the horſe comming ſo fiercely, gaue ſomething backe, but brought his Maiſter ſo neere him, that he ſtroke him full in the ſight of the Helme, and the barre beeing weake, gaue paſſage for

the speare to his braines, so that they fell to the ground both together. And Gwaltero clearing his feet out of the stirrups, lightly recouered himselfe againe, and addressing his shielde on his arme, with his sword in his hand, hee marched towards the Castle gate, minding (seeing that he had proceeded so farre) either to enter, or die in the pursute. But before hee was come fully to the entrance, the fiue Knights, who were appointed to combat first with him, came forth, and all at once assaulted him: then beganne there a most fierce and bloody fight, very hard and vnequall, by reason they being fiue, and he but one, and also before ouerlabored with his former trauell, was not able to doe as otherwise he would: yet notwithstanding, he layd on such cruel blowes, that euery one iudged himselfe happiest when as he was farthest from him, the lookers on admiring how it was possible for one alone Knight, to shewe such prowesse, as by defending himselfe against so many, but at last being ouerwearied, & wounded in many places, hauing lost much of his blood, was forced through faintnes to fal to the ground, hauing before his fall slaine two of them out-right, and very sorely wounded the others, then being no longer able to resistance, he was carried prisoner into the Castle, where he had his wounds bound vp & dressed, being pitied of many who had beheld his valloz, but being cured of his wounds, and examined of whence he was, hee was committed prisoner into the dungion where the wofull King lay, thereby thinking the more to grieue him. Who no sooner was let in the dungion, but they one knew the other, making the greatest lamentation and sorrow that might be, but at length comforting themselues as well as they might, they made relation of their fortunes each to other, hoping that in time God would send them deliuerance from all their troubles. Heere will we leaue them, to tell a little what hapned in the Kingdome of Denmarke, through the mallice of the Gouernours one to another.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

How the Archbiſhop of *Maiance*, the County *Hermes*, & the Lord *Harding*, diſliking the gouernment, went about to make a King amongſt them.

THe Kingdome of Denmarke, hauing bæne without their King, by the ſpace of 17 yeares, and vnder the gouernment of a certaine company of States, elected as is before declared: many beganne to diſlike with ỹ gouernment therof, amongſt whom the chiefe and principall, were the Archbiſhop of Maiance, a man very well learned, but giuen altogether vnto nouelties and change, the County Hermes, and the Lord Harding, all thræ great men, and ſuch as were in a manner, the only Authors of that gouernment: and the firſt yeare were themſelues chiefe gouernours in that eſtabliſhed eſtate, as appeareth in the fourth Chapter of this preſent Booke.

Yet notwithſtanding, (al this and their ſolemne vowes, ratified vnder their hands and ſeales, for the continuance, and performance of that kind of ſtate, and gouernment) they were in a manner, the firſt that repined againſt it, ſæking by all the meanes they could, to ouerthrow and extinguiſh the ſame, either for the enuy they bare towardes thoſe who were Gouernors, or for that themſelues had neuer ſince the firſt yeare hapned to be of the twelue, or elſe (and that which I thinke to be moſt likelieſt) beeing ſtirred vp by the deuill, they deſired greater ſuperiority, then either became them, or by any waies they were worthy of, yet doubting to agræ within themſelues, being but thræ, hauing the gouernance in their owne hands, determined therefore to elect and chuſe a King: who beeing by them ſo raiſed, could not chuſe likewiſe but to be rulde by them, and that vnder the cullour of the King, they might reuenge themſelues of their enemies: and likewiſe preferre their

friends.

friends to honor and dignitie. And hauing thus resolued betweene themselues, they solicited the Scottish King to accept of the Diadem, promising him by their letters, that if he would but send ouer tenne thousand Souldiers, vnder the conduct of some expert Leader or Captaine, that then they would so ayde him, that in lesse then a yeare, he should haue all Denmarke in his subiection: conditionally, that they three might continually haue and inioy to themselues, the chiefe offices belonging to that Kingdome.

The Scottish King (harkning vnto this iolly proffer) at the first made small account thereof: but afterwards waying with himselfe the great benefits and proffits, which thereby might rise, not onely to him: but to all his Kingdome and Subiects, if he might so easily obtaine the same, as in their letters they made showe of: and beeing againe by them solicited anew, writing vnto him in their letters, that vnlesse he accepted thereof, they would giue it vnto the King of England, or some other Prince, whom they knew would more thankefully accept of their kind offer. The County Hermes in a priuate letter besides, wrote how that if his Maiestie would (hauing conquered the Kingdome) make him Viceroy or Deputy thereof, he would send ouer his eldest sonne to remaine as pledge, vntill such time as he had performed, whatsoeuer hee made promise of: and that then he would render him such tribute, as by his Maiestie should be thought fit. Now when he had himselfe perused these letters, (and cast all doubts he could) he made them knowne to his priuy Counsell, who after long deliberation, at length gaue him this answere, that they were also of the minde, his Maiestie should accept their proffer of the Kingdome: a gift well worth the acceptance, and farther, to graunt them their owne desires, in that which they should demaunde, till such time as beeing Maister of the Country, hee might at his pleasure, then alter any thing that he would. In the meane time, to receaue pledges of their meaning, least otherwise he might repent too late. Thus hauing determined, the King sent ouer secretly vn-

to

to them, to certifie them of his intent, assuring each of them the greatest dignities and honor, that the Kingdome would yeeld: intreating thē likewise, to send ouer their Hostages, vpon whose arriuall his forces should be ready to be shipped, vnder the conduct of his Cosen, the Lord Douglasse, a man for his experience and vallor excellent.

These letters being thus secretly conuaied, were most welcome newes vnto those arch Traytors to their Country, who foorthwith sent for Hostages the County Hermes his eldest sonne, a gallant young youth, and one whom in time might haue proued an honorable man. The Lord Harding had but one only daughter, and her he sent vnder cullour to be brought vp with the Scottish Princesse, for the Arch Traytor (Archbishop I would say) was sent an Nephew of his, an excellent good Scholler, & a notable Politician. These being sent into Scotland, they appointed the Kings forces to be ready by the tenth of May then next insuing: and they in the meane time made all the prouision that might be, where we will likewise leaue them.

CHAP. XX.

Of a strange aduenture hapning in the Court of *Saxonie*, and how the Gentleman of the Forrest, and *Iago* were Knighted, and how the aduenture was ended.

THere was in the Kingdome of Spaine, a noble man called Segnior Adresto, famous for his vertues and Chiualry: and hauing passed ouer a great part of the world, in seeking and following of strange aduentures, alwaies hauing fortunate successe in all his enterprises, especially in his loue, which hee bare towards a noble Lady of his owne Country, called Leonarda, daughter and sole heyre vnto ỹ Duke of Tolledo: one who for beauty and comlinesse of body, was the only paragon of all Spaine, sought vnto by many, but only inioyed by Adresto, betweene whom there grew so great loue, that whosoeuer had seene or knowne the same,

would haue ſworne, that then loue there had bene no greater dietie. Which when the Duke her father vnderſtoode, being loth to match her vnto one of ſo meane eſtate, although for his vertues he might compare with any, yet was his liuings very ſmall: therefore he often warned her to auoyd his company, and at length grew in great diſpleaſure w̃ her, threatning to diſinherit her, if ſhe did not obey vnto his will herein. Which the young Lady doubting, at their next meeting, made him priuy withall, aſſuring him that for his loue ſhe could be contented to forſake all. But yet ſeeing that in time her fathers good will might bee obtained, ſhe would intreate him for a while to abſence himſelfe: aſſuring him, that for her part, ſhe would alwaies continue faithfull and conſtant vnto him, and neuer accept of any other huſband, though thereby ſhe were diſinherited. Adreſto hearing her kind and louing ſpeeches, anſwered, that ſeeing it was her pleaſure, he was contented, although to be out of her preſence would bee a hell vnto him: and whereas ſhee had made him ſo free a graunt of her loue, he proteſted before the heauens likewiſe neuer to forſake her, and that before he would conſent to loue any other thē herſelfe, he would be torne to peeces with wilde horſes: then deliuering each other aſſigne of their paſſed faiths, he departed. And within ſhort time after left the Kingdome, trauelling many ſtrange and vnknowne Regions, till at laſt comming into the Kings of Ireland, hee hapned to fall in likingly with a beautifull Damſell of that Country, but of meane parentage: her father being but a Marchant of that Country. On whom he ſo doted, that he had cleane forgotten, and forſaken the chaſt and vertuous Lady Lenarda: although the good Lady hauing intelligence hereof, by a friend of hers, a ſkilfull Magitian, oft times ſent vnto him, to cauſe him to call to minde his former loue. At length the Duke her father dying, and leauing her ſole Miſtris and Dutches of his Dukedome, ſhee hauing with great pompe & ſolemnitie celebrated his funerals, one day ſent for her friend the Magitian to come vnto her, of whom ſhe demaunded if there were no meanes, to recall her louer

Adreſto

Adreſto againe, without whom ſhe was like to ſpend her life time in care and heauineſſe. Adriano, (for ſo the Magitian was called) made her aunſwere, that he could not directly aunſwere her demaunde: becauſe that ſhe (whom he ſo loued) woꝛe alwaies on her finger a Ring, which was the only ſtay of his loue, which except they could get from her, it was impoſſible, euer to remoue his affection. Alſo this Ring had one other vertue, which was that whoſoeuer did weare it, ſhould not loſe ſo much as a dꝛop of blood in any battaile whatſoeuer: wheꝛefoꝛe when he combatted with any one, (as oft times he did foꝛ her loue.) then had he the Ring. And vnleſſe there could be found a Knight, that might by foꝛce conquer him in ſingle battaile, and take away the Ring from him, it was impoſſible to get the ſame by any deceit whatſoeuer. Lenarda hearing this, was as one halfe beſides herſelfe, but being comfoꝛted by Adriano, (who aſſured her he would trie the vttermoſt of his ſkill to find out the Knight, as he had ſpoken of.) Then taking his leaue of her, he returned home: where by his art he framed a moſt rich and faire ſwoꝛd, excellent curious to the eye, and to cut, the beſt that was then in the whole woꝛld: this ſwoꝛd he inchaunted in ſuch ſoꝛt, that no man but hee to whom the conqueſt of Adreſto appertained, might dꝛawe the ſame: then bringing it to Lenarda, willed her to ſend one of her Squires therwith, to ſeeke out the Knight who ſhould by his vallоꝛ recouer her loue: then deliuering it to one of her Squires, whom ſhe eſteemed foꝛ his truth and ſecricie, with this commaunde, that whoſoeuer ſhould offer to dꝛaw foꝛth ẏ ſwoꝛd, ſhould firſt make pꝛomiſe of a boone, which was to goe ouer into Ireland, and to combat with Adreſto, accuſing him foꝛ falcifying of his faith to Lenarda.

Thus the Squire (hauing the ſwoꝛd) trauelled to all the Pꝛinces Courts in Spaine, and Countries thereabouts: then into Fraunce, Italie, and Germanie, neuer finding any one that could once moue it in the Scaberd: although many ſtout & hardy Knights made triall thereof, to this great griefe, fearing his trauell ſhould neuer haue end, noꝛ his Lady eaſe of her ſoꝛrowe. In this manner hauing trauel-

led through most part of Germanie: he arriued at the Court of Saxonie, desiring the Duke ỳ his Knights might make triall, if it were any their fortunes to accomplish that, for which hee had trauailed the greatest part of Christendome. Then shewing his sword, hee declared, that bearing the same a whole yeere, he could neuer finde any one ỳ might draw the same. The Duke wondring hereat, immediatly after Dinner, caused all his Knights to make triall therof, himselfe being the first, but al to no end applyed they their forces. Which when the young Prince Iago, and the Gentleman of the Forrest beheld, they presently fell on theyr knees before the Duke, desiring his grace to grant them the order of knight-hood, hoping that for one of them this Aduenture was reserued.

The Duke being vnwilling at the first, by reason of their young age, that being knighted, they would hazard themselues in seeking after strange aduentures, aduised them to stay a yeere or two more, before they tooke so waitie a charge on them: affirming that it was vnlawfull to dubbe any one, before the age of twenty, at which time they would be strong, and able to indure the weight of their Armour and trauell, and not before. All which could not cause them to desist from theyr sute, but still more earnestlie they craued the same, alleaging many sundry examples of those who at younger yeeres had inured themselues to as great labours, as Reynaldo at the age of fiftene yeeres stealing from his fathers court, went into Palestina to the Christian Armie, where vnder great Godfry of Bullen, he obtained to be the chiefe scourge to the Saracins, and without whom, it had beene impossible to haue wonne the holy Citty of Ierusalem. This and many other such like arguments they alleaged, whereby at length they obtained the Duke to consent vnto them: willing them for that night, according to the auncient custome, to watch in the Chappell. Then turning to the Squire, hee intreated him to tarry till the next day, seeing the two young Gentlemen were so desirous. The Squire, to satisfie the Duke, willingly consented, although

though he had no great hope of their ſucceſſe.

The two Princes carefull of their charge, hauing their Armor and other neceſſaries prouided, kept their deuout watch all night, ſometimes accompanied by the young Princeſſe, and diuers other Ladies, they paſſed away the time till the morning: at what time the Duke cõming vnto them, accompanied with many Lords & Knights, with his owne hands buckled on their ſpurres, and then drawing forth their ſwords, gaue them the gentle Accolado. Then raiſing them vp, deſired GOD to make them both good and valiant Knights. Then hearing diuine ſeruice, they returned into the great Hall, to make triall of the inchaunted Sword, where firſt the Prince Iago as the elder, made tryall, but by no meanes was able to draw it, then taking it to the Gentleman of the Forreſt, he ſaid, Brother God giue you better luck then I, or elſe this Squire is like to indure more labour. True replied he, & I doubt it greatly, ſeeing that you haue miſt: then putting his hands on the Hilts, he drew it forth as eaſily, as if it had beene an ordinary ſword, to the great wonder of the Duke, and all the beholders. Then the Squire falling on his knees, tolde him, that the boone which he required, was to goe into Ireland with him, where he ſhould combat with a Knight, beeing the falſeſt Louer that might be: and therewith declared the whole diſcourſe of his Lady and Adreſto, as is before recited. Heere wee will leaue the Gentleman of the Forreſt, preparing himſelfe to goe with the Squire into Ireland, to combat Adreſto, concluding the firſt part of our Hiſtory.

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FINIS.